Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 69 **Issue 1** **February 2023**

Banner Elk Spring Meeting
April 27 - April 30, 2023

By Paul Laurent

The North Carolina High Country is a remarkable place for birding in springtime. The woods and meadows are filled with migrating warblers and much more. The rugged mountains capped with spruce and fir trees bear a striking resemblance to lands much further north - and many species of birds that normally just pass through the Carolinas on their way to northern breeding grounds have resident breeding populations in these mountains.

Many thousands of years ago advancing glaciers pushed plants and animals out of the far north and into what is today the Carolinas. When the ice ages ended and the glaciers retreated, those northern species of plants and animals followed the glaciers back north and recolonized their traditional ranges - except here in the High Country! Our tall mountains and abundant rainfall meant that the climate here has much more in common with Nova Scotia than New Bern, and many species of plants and animals that are normally associated with far northern climates can be found thriving in these southern mountains.

We can expect to see Common Ravens, Winter Wrens, Hermit Thrushes, Brown Creepers, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, as well as Canada Warblers, Black-throated Blue Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Blackburnian Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Hooded Warblers, and many others breeding in the dense forests and wildflower meadows of the High Country. Countless more birds pass through these mountains on their way further north each spring.

We will have outings to many of the best birding hot spots in the High Country, including the world-famous Grandfather Mountain, spots along the Blue Ridge Parkway, and some fantastic

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), February 2023, Volume 69, Number 1 Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

local parks including Valle Crucis (which is the single best birding hotspot in the area), Brookshire Park, and the Greenway in Boone. Trout, Bass and Price Lakes are always magnets for warblers in the spring. Trips north to Elk Knob and Rich Mountain Game Lands have the chance for Golden-winged Warblers and more.

The Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation has offered to host us for the Saturday Banquet at their brand-new conference room and museum. This gives us all a chance to see their new, state-of-the-art educational facility and learn more about what makes Grandfather Mountain such an incredible spot for birds. There will also be opportunities to look and listen for Northern Saw Whet Owls on Grandfather Mountain at night!

Be prepared for cool weather, and potentially cold weather at higher elevations. If there has been rain before the meeting trails could be wet and muddy, so waterproof hiking boots are a good idea for most outings. Weather can change quickly in the mountains so make sure to bring extra layers just in case!

We will be based at the Best Western Mountain Lodge in Banner Elk, North Carolina. We have a block of rooms set aside for $127.50 per night. You can reserve your room at this link:

https://www.bestwestern.com/en_US/book/hotel-rooms.34151.html?groupId=I14XY8K4

The Best Western is located at 1615 Tynecastle Hwy, Banner Elk, NC 28604

The view from the south slope of Grandfather Mountain in the North Carolina High Country. Photo by S. Dowlan

Call for Volunteers to Serve on the CBC Executive Committee

By Cathy Miller

The Executive Committee needs to fill a few key positions and we are looking for volunteers to serve in the following capacity:

- Eastern NC Member-at-large (two 2-year terms) - this position is currently open
- SC Vice-President - (a 3-year term) - this position will be open in March
- President - (2 consecutive 1-year terms) – election to be held at the Spring Meeting – open to previous board members.

From personal experience, I can say that the best way to understand an organization and its mission is to serve on its board. Anyone can serve. We are looking for people who are enthusiastic and willing to help move the Carolina Bird Club forward in its mission, which is copied and pasted below from our website:

The Carolina Bird Club is a non-profit organization that represents and supports the birding community in the Carolinas through its website, publications, meetings, workshops, trips, and partnerships, whose mission is

- *To promote the observation, enjoyment, and study of birds.*
- *To provide opportunities for birders to become acquainted, and to share information and experience.*
- *To maintain well-documented records of birds in the Carolinas.*
- *To support the protection and conservation of birds and their habitats and foster an appreciation and respect of natural resources.*
- *To promote educational opportunities in bird and nature study.*
- *To support research on birds of the Carolinas and their habitats.*

If you are interested in learning how the club supports ornithological research and conservation of bird habitat in the Carolinas and you want to support educational issues, to help others to enjoy birds, and maybe also help to organize our seasonal birding weekends (meetings), the Executive Committee welcomes your nomination. And yes, please self-nominate if you would like to be involved. If you have questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to any current member. You can contact me at mmemiller.cathy@gmail.com through February. Every executive committee member's contact information is listed at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/main/exec_comm.html.

Hiding in Plain Sight - the "Old Northeastern" Red Crossbill

A recent article by Ryan F. Mandelbaum on the Finch Research Network describes "A previously-unidentified red crossbill call type has inhabited one of North America's most populated regions, the northeast, all along." Until now, scientists have identified eleven call types in North America, one of which, the Cassia Crossbill, has been elevated to its own species. The Northeastern red crossbill is the twelfth.

To read the full article, visit https://finchnetwork.org/type-12-the-old-northeastern-red-crossbill

Have you heard…?

North Carolina has a new bird observatory!

The Cape Fear Bird Observatory (CFBO), founded in 2020, is a 501(c) (3) that focuses on the biology, ecology and conservation of birds. The CFBO's mission is to strive to promote conservation of birds and their habitats in North Carolina through research, education, outreach, and community involvement. Founded by a group of passionate women who have many years of experience in the avian ecology field in North Carolina, The Cape Fear Bird Observatory is sure to become a fixture in the local science and education community.

The Cape Fear Bird Observatory is starting strong with four ventures:

1. Color banding Painted Buntings in southeastern North Carolina, which allows members of the community to identify uniquely marked individuals which easily connects communities with these vibrantly colored, charismatic birds.
2. Establishing a migration banding station at Carolina Beach State Park. Migration monitoring provides insight into seasonal movement and timing of migration as well as habitat use in the area.
3. Creating a program focused on young people in the community called Wilmington Youth Birding which is working to engage elementary and middle-school aged children through in-school nature walks and activities.
4. The CFBO is the new home of hummingbird research in North Carolina. This long-term endeavor that was begun in 1999 by Susan Campbell will now be conducted through the observatory. The move should allow for greater visibility of the various aspects of this endeavor. As a result, the scope of Susan's research should broaden significantly with increased support.

Birds are indicators of environmental health; their ubiquity makes them accessible to many people of all levels of interest and skill. Monitoring them with community assistance allows the Cape Fear Bird Observatory to positively impact the local environment. Donations to this non-profit fund directly support local avian research. Go to ***capefearbirdobservatory.org*** for more information.

Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

Welcome New CBC Members!

New Life Members

Gretchen Locy, Fort Mill, SC

Kris & Ray Petrusch
LaGrange, NC

Heather Main
Efland, NC

Kert Kolehma
Charleston, SC

Ric & Kitty Carter
Washington, NC

Tom & Susan Harrington
Storrs Mansfield, CT

Christopher Koegel
Chocowinity, NC

Trevor Sleight
Greenville, NC

Susan Parrish
Fayetteville, NC

Tessa Wells
Burlington, NC

Alexander Trifunovic
Greene, NY

Charlie Ayers
Carnesville, GA

Tim Lewis
Lori Unruh
Whittier, NC

Wendi Sharp
Camp Lejeune, NC

Monica Sweigart
Greenville, NC

Joree Brownlow
Mt. Pleasant, SC

Erin, James & Colin Beeler
Raleigh, NC

Allen Kindman
June Almenoff
Durham, NC

Judy Luetkemeyer
Gatlinburg, TN

Wayne Lewis
Calabash, NC

Lee Justice
Franklinton, NC

Sarah Gardner
Cary, NC

Jane Bailey
Manteo, NC

Ann Robertson
Winston-Salem, NC

Laura Mae
Chesapeake, VA

Josh Darnell
Mint Hill, NC

Luz Aveleyra
Charlotte, NC

Kerri Adams
Lawndale, NC

Benjamin Baldwin
Apex, NC

Richard DeFazio
Ann Arbor, MI

Carol Hamilton
Hillsborough, NC

WINGS OVER WATER - 2023

Mark your calendar for North Carolina's only wildlife festival which will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary on October 17-22, 2023 at the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Plan on joining us for special events as well as the return of Julie Zickefoose as our guest of honor. Julie is a world-renowned natural history writer, artist and wildlife rehabilitator. Julie will be with us for most of the week. In addition to being our keynote speaker on Saturday evening, she will be involved with several birding trips. Stay tuned for the opening date of online registration coming this spring.

OBX Winter Birding Weekend a Big Success for Members and Birds!

by Susan Campbell

Photos by Susan Campbell, Bob Lewis and Pam Ford

January 13 through 15 was a terrific weekend on the Outer Banks. 150 intrepid birders enjoyed trips, speakers and socializing—finally! This was the second seasonal meeting held since the pandemic hit in early 2020. By all accounts, it was a big success!

Photo by Pam Ford

Not surprisingly the weather was not ideal. But what would a weekend in January on the Outer Banks be without some wind and wintry precipitation? Some field trips experienced rain, sleet, and snow in the span of just a few hours! The birds, and the birders, did not really seem to mind.

One hundred sixty-three species were tallied over the course of the weekend with a few interesting birds making the list. A Snow Bunting that had been in the same area of Alligator River Refuge for over a month was seen by most participants. But conversely, the Ash-throated Flycatcher also at Alligator River was seen by few. Unfortunately, alcids were few and far between with only a few Razorbill tallied from Jennette's Pier. A couple of flyby Common Eiders, a few Manx Shearwaters, and a Long-tailed Duck were also good birds at the pier. A handsome drake Eurasian Wigeon impressed a couple of groups at Pea Island, while an apparent Northern Pintail/Gadwall hybrid was a great find. Gull numbers at Hatteras Point were impressive, with an Iceland and Glaucous in the mix.

Photo by Bob Lewis

Many would say that the "best bird" of the weekend was actually not a bird at all. Multiple participants (including yours truly) were treated to shockingly good views of Red Wolves. These locally reintroduced canids had been active at Alligator River Refuge in the vicinity of Milltail Road in weeks leading up to the meeting and so, with a bit of luck, could be seen at fairly close range. Several members managed some good photos of the animals, and Bob Lewis even captured some amazing video!

Field trips ranged north from our base in Kill Devil Hills to the village of Corolla, south along the Outer Banks to Cape Hatteras, and inland to sites from Pocosin NWR (where an epic encounter with tens of thousands of geese and swans amazed participants) to Lake Mattamuskeet to Palmetto Peartree Preserve for a visit with the area's resident Red-cockaded Woodpeckers.

Our hotel, the Comfort Inn on the Ocean, provided wonderful hospitality. Early breakfasts and optional bag lunches in addition to a delicious banquet ensured participants were well fed.

Evening presentations ranged from an update on Golden-winged Warblers in North Carolina by Aimee Tomcho, to an in-depth taxonomic review of Carolina subspecies by John Gerwin, to a virtual birding tour of the Galapagos Islands by Steve Shultz.

Photo by Pam Ford

Evening events also included a raffle in which over 20 donated items were won by lucky participants, a feather identification challenge, and a fun series of "dingbats" that asked folks to put on their creative thinking caps to guess the bird's name described by custom artwork provided by Les McCallum. Tables representing the Cape Fear Bird Observatory, Ventures Birding Tours, and the North Carolina Breeding Bird Atlas provided information and swag, while young birder Ian House received a scholarship to attend the meeting and assisted by acting as the official drawer of raffle tickets Saturday evening. Last not least, as a result of member generosity, the sales of donated books and ceramics as well as raffle tickets netted the Young Birder Fund over $400 during the course of the weekend.

Photo by Pam Ford

Photo by Susan Campbell

I would like to extend a special thank you to Les Coble, whose planning for the Covid-cancelled 2022 winter meeting provided significant input into our 2023 meeting, our evening speakers, and the many volunteers who led field trips. We could not have done it without you! With the winter meeting in the annals of history, I am looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting in Banner Elk, NC. After too many canceled meetings, we are back! ☺

Photo by Pam Ford

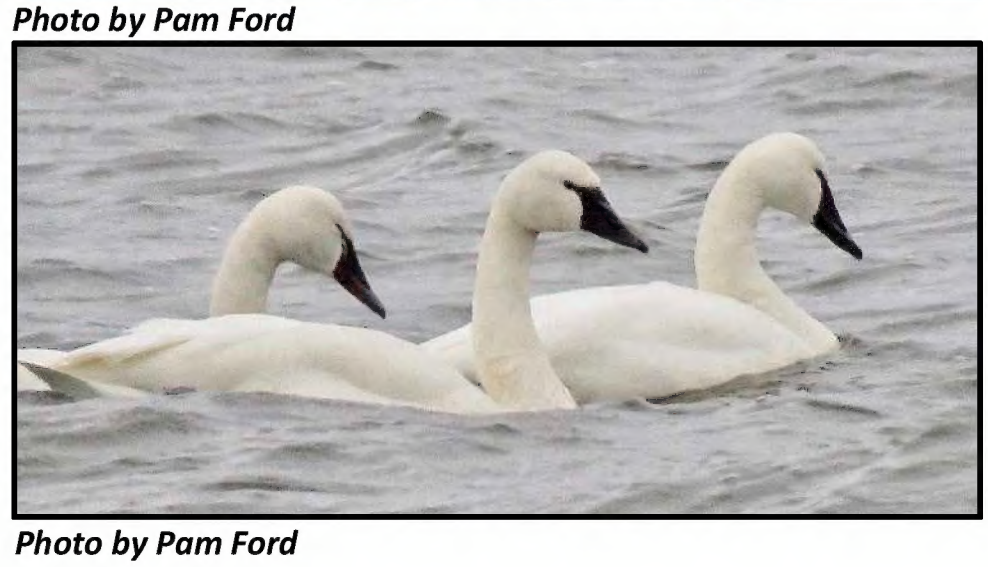

Photo by Pam Ford

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www.carolinabirdclub.org

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1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring Birding Weekend at Banner Elk NC – April 27-30, 2023

Fall Birding Weekend at Litchfield, SC – September 28th-October 1st, 2023

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stevepath1@aol.com

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Deadlines for submission of Volume 69, Issue 2 is
March 6, 2023

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, $30; Family and Business, $35; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat, which is only available on line.* Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00.

Join the CBC at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/. Enter change of address at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2022.

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We will have outings to many of the best birding hot spots in the High Country, including the World-Famous Grandfather Mountain, spots along the Blue Ridge Parkway, and some fantastic local parks including Valle Crucis (which is the single best birding hotspot in the area), Brookshire Park, and the Greenway in Boone. Trout, Bass & Price Lakes are always magnets for warblers in the Spring. Trips north to Elk Knob and Rich Mountain Game Lands have the chance for Golden-winged Warblers and more.

Our Saturday banquet will be at the Best Western and feature keynote speaker Jesse Pope from the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation. Unfortunately, logistical issues will prevent us from having the Saturday banquet at the new Grandfather Mountain Museum. We encourage everyone to try and find a chance to visit their new exhibits and see the remarkable birds on the Mountain!

Be prepared for cool weather, and potentially cold weather at higher elevations. If there has been rain before the meeting, trails could be wet and muddy, so waterproof hiking boots are a good idea for most outings. Weather can change quickly in the mountains so make sure to bring extra layers just in case! We will be based at the Best Western Mountain Lodge in Banner Elk, North Carolina. We have a block of rooms set aside for $127.50 per night. You can reserve your room at this link:

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The Best Western is located at 1615 Tynecastle Hwy, Banner Elk, NC 28604

Spring Meeting Outings
We are still looking for Outings Leaders. If you are interested in being an Outings Leader for our Spring Meeting please email Paul Laurent at info@epicnaturetours.com

Half Day Trips

Trip 1, 9, 21, 29 - Valle Crucis Community Park
Valle Crucis Park is one of the top birding spots in the High Country, with over 180 species documented in a relatively small area. The Park is very flat and has a paved walkway as well as an unpaved path through a wildflower meadow. The combination of rivers, wetlands, forests and meadows make Valle Crucis a great spot to find a wide variety of birds from all of these habitats.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L424469

Approximate Travel Time: 20 minutes (9 miles)
Conditions: Very easy - Flat walking paths. Much of the path is paved with an additional loop that is grassy.

Trip 2, 10, 22, 30 - Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation
Grandfather Mountain is the best birding spot in the High Country with over 200 species recorded on the mountain and over 100 species that breed on its slopes. This outing begins at the main gate and slowly climbs to the Swinging Bridge, stopping at Half-moon Overlook, Woods Walk, the Nature Museum, and Black Rock Trail along the way. Look for warblers, thrushes, and highland specialties like Common Raven, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Pine Siskin, & Red-breasted Nuthatch as well as migrating hawks and the resident Peregrine Falcons.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L440334

Approximate Travel Time: 15 minutes (9 miles)
Conditions: Easy - Moderate - The trails we will be on are reasonably flat and well maintained, but Linville Peak and the Black Rock Trail are uneven and rocky. Bathrooms are present at the Museum and at the Bridge. There is a restaurant at the Museum.

Trip 3, 11, 23, 31 - Brookshire Park
Brookshire Park runs along the banks of the New River, with created wetlands on the other side of the raised bank. The path turns to gravel as it climbs a small hill into secondary forest habitat and then another meadow at the top. The wetlands are excellent habitat for a variety of sparrows and the woods are home to a variety of thrushes, warblers, and a resident Eastern Screech Owl.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3000059

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes (19 miles)

Conditions: Easy to Moderate - The first section of the greenway is flat and paved. The path up the hill is gravel and moderately steep

Trip 4,24 - Boone Greenway & Created Wetlands
The Boone Greenway runs along the New River with woods, fields and wetlands along the trail. The created wetlands are a great place to look for migrating rails as well as warblers and sparrows! The wide variety of habitats in a relatively small area can produce a wide variety of birds.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3088296

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes (17 miles)
Conditions: Very Easy - Greenway is flat and paved. There is a flat, gravel path around the created wetlands

Trip 5, 13, 25, 33 - Elk Valley Preserve & Banner Elk Mill Pond
Elk Valley Preserve belongs to Lees-McRae College and is a little-known birding hot spot sits along the Elk River and has a remarkable mix of meadows, wetlands, creeks, rivers, and forests. The variety of habitat makes it a great place to look for sparrows, warblers, woodpeckers, migrating waterfowl and more. This area is not heavily birded, so you never know what you might find! After exploring the Preserve we will stop by the Banner Elk Mill Pond to look for migrating waterfowl as well as rails and sparrows in the tall grass and wetlands
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L13253864

Approximate Travel Time: 10 minutes (4.5 miles)
Conditions: Easy (but sometimes muddy and overgrown) - The trails are all flat, but unpaved and some are narrow. If there has been recent rain the area can get VERY muddy. The tall grasses and briers in the meadows can encroach on some of the paths. Hiking boots and long pants are recommended.

Trip 6, 14, 26, 34 - Trout Lake & Bass Lake
Trout and Bass Lakes are both amazing warbler hotspots. Trout Lake has breeding Black-throated Blue Warblers, Black-throated Green Warblers, Canada Warblers, Chestnut-sided Warblers, Hooded Warblers, Northern Parulas, Louisiana Waterthrush, Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers & more! Bass Lake is known for attracting migrating ducks as well as a wide range of warblers, woodpeckers and other forest songbirds.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L523242
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L472179

Approximate Travel Time: 25 minutes (14 miles)
Conditions: Easy - Trout Lake has a flat, gravel path around it. Bass Lake has a flat path around the lake, and then a steeper path up the hill.

Trip 7, 16, 27, 36 - Julian Price Lake & Campground
Julian Price Lake is a fantastic birding spot. The 2 ½ mile trail around the lake provides a mix of habitats that often attracts migrating waterfowl, thrushes, warblers, flycatchers, woodpeckers and more. The campground does not open to campers until mid-May, so this mix of fields and forests should only be full of birds, not campers! The campground has had breeding Blackburnian Warblers the last two years as well as Swainson's Warblers and many other songbirds.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1048254

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes (19 miles)

Conditions: Easy - There is a flat trail around the Lake, and a paved road through the campground. There are bathroom facilities in the campground, but there is a good chance they will be locked. There are bathrooms at the picnic area a few minutes up the road.

Trip 8, 28 - Rich Mountain Game Lands & Elk Knob State Park
This outing begins on the road up to Rich Mountain, an area known for Golden-winged Warblers as well as a good variety of sparrows and other grassland birds. From there we will bird up to Elk Knob State Park looking for Winter Wrens and other highland specialties. This outing will involve a lot of road side birding because some areas are open to hunting.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L902789

Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes (27 miles)
Conditions: Easy - Moderate - There will be a lot of roadside birding as well as some short hikes with uneven terrain.

Trip 12, 32 - Lewis Fork Overlook & Jeffress Park
Lewis Fork is a great place to find breeding warblers, and is one of the best spots around to find Cerulean Warblers. We will take our time birding along the Parkway at Lewis Fork before heading south to Jeffress Park, which has a 1 mile trail to a waterfall that is known for a variety of warblers, thrushes & more.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1158095
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1157162

Approximate Travel Time: 50 minutes (33 miles)
Conditions: Easy - Moderate - Lewis Fork is roadside birding, so expect mostly flat terrain and short grass walking (watch for cars though). The trail to the waterfall is moderately steep and has some uneven footing. Bathrooms available at Jeffress Park.

Trip 15, 23, 35 - Green Knob Trail
This fantastic 2.3 mile trail begins at Sim's Pond and follows a small creek through the woods before climbing to an open pasture. The woods are home to a variety of warblers as well as Brown Creepers and Winter Wrens. A pair of Ravens have nested under the bridge for the last few years. The top of the hill offers great views and a chance for soaring raptors. The hike down goes through mixed forests that are home to a breeding population of Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers. The trail ends in a wildflower meadow with a view of Grandfather Mountain and the chance for Buntings, Sparrows and Warblers.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4759098

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes (16 miles)
Conditions: Moderate - This 2.3 mile trail has several steep sections as well as creek crossings, uneven surfaces, and a couple logs to climb over.

Trip 24 - Blue Ridge Conservation Campus
The BRC has a beautiful tract of land that begins in a wildflower meadow along Aho Branch and then extends up a wooded hillside. The recently completed two-miles trail winds through the forest and gives great chances to see a wide range of migratory songbirds. Since this is a relatively new property it has not been extensively birded, so you never know what might show up!
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L16319072

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes (21 miles)
Conditions: Moderate - The meadow is flat with a short, grassy path. The trail up the hill is well graded and not too steep. Bathrooms are available at the BRC office.

Trip 45, 46 - Shawnee Rd above Beech Mtn Bog
Shawnee Rd runs along the ridgeline above Beech Mountain Bog. There is a great mix of woods and meadow habitat along the road, and the bog draws in a wider variety of birds than you would expect for such a habitat. This is a great spot for warblers and sparrows, as well as a decent chance for Black-billed Cuckoo (heard more often than seen). There are a few small ponds that draw in migrating waterfowl as well as flycatchers. The road leading up has a good spot for breeding Bobolinks.

If there is time, the outing will conclude at Valle Crucis Park or the Banner Elk Mill Pond.

Approximate Travel Time: 15 minutes (5 miles)
Conditions: Easy - There is parking along the road, and the road itself is relatively flat and paved with a grassy shoulder.

Full Day Trips

Trip 17, 37 - Grandfather Mountain
Grandfather Mountain is one of the best birding spots in the Carolinas, with over 200 species recorded and over 100 documented breeding species on its slopes. This all-day exploration of Grandfather Mountain begins with the first section of the Profile Trail, which has an incredible variety of breeding warblers, thrushes, vireos and more. We stop before the trail gets too steep and head south to the Grandfather Mountain Stewardship Foundation, where we begin at the main gate and slowly climb to the Swinging Bridge, stopping at Half-moon Overlook, Woods Walk, the Nature Museum, and Black Rock Trail along the way. Look for warblers, thrushes, and highland specialties like Common Raven, Winter Wren, Brown Creeper, Pine Siskin, & Red-breasted Nuthatch as well as migrating hawks and the resident Peregrine Falcons. The trip concludes at the Boone Fork Overlook where we will hike along the Tanawha & Nuwati Trails on the mountains eastern slope.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L3018029
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L440334

Approximate Travel Time: 6 minutes (3 miles)
Conditions: Moderate - There will be extended walking on uneven trails with some steep sections. Bathrooms are available at the Profile Trailhead as well as at the Museum and Bridge at Grandfather Mountain. There is a restaurant at the Museum.

Trip 42, 43 - Boone Fork Loop Trail & Surrounding Area
The Boone Fork Loop is a beautiful 5-mile trail that passes through a wildflower meadow, runs along a creek, then cuts deeper into the woods with a mix of rhododendron and mixed hardwood habitats. There is a spur trail down to Hebron Falls, which is a stunning set of cascading waterfalls. This gives a wide variety of habitats that are great for migrating warblers as well as sparrows and other songbirds. Afterwards there will be options to check Price Lake and the Price Lake Campground, Trout Lake, or the overlooks along Grandfather Mountain depending on what birds have been reported!
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L770359

Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes (19 miles)
Conditions: Moderate - This 5-mile trail is steep in some places and there are several stream crossings. The spur to Hebron Falls is very steep. There is a bathroom in the parking area.

Trip 19, 39, 48 - Blue Ridge Parkway South (Linn Cove Viaduct to Chestoa View)

This outing begins at the Linn Cove Viaduct, which is a great spot to find migrating warblers as well as hawks and ravens over Grandfather Mountain. From here you will follow the Blue Ridge Parkway south, stopping to hike up to Beacon Heights, and then checking the next several overlooks for mixed flocks of birds on the way to Linville Gorge. After exploring the gorge, the outing ends at Chestoa View, which has a stunning view and a short trail that will hopefully be full of migrating warblers!

Approximate Travel Time: 19 minutes (11 miles)
Conditions: Moderate - Short hikes at Beacon Heights & Linville Gorge are somewhat steep and rocky in a few places, the rest of the trip will be pretty flat and easy walking at various overlooks.

Trip 18, 38 - Blue Ridge Parkway North (Lewis Fork Overlook to Linn Cove Viaduct)
This outing begins at Lewis Fork Overlook, where we hope to find Cerulean Warblers as well as a variety of other breeding and migrant songbirds. Next we travel south to Jeffress Park for a 1 mile hike to the Cascades Waterfall on a trail that is known for warblers, thrushes and more. We will spend the rest of the day making our way down the Blue Ridge Parkway stopping at overlooks looking for mixed flocks passing through. There will be a short detour to check the Mount Vernon Baptist Church Cemetery for Bobolinks. There will be stops at Julian Price Lake to look for waterfowl and to check the campground for Blackburnian Warblers as well as at the Boone Fork Overlook for a brief hike if time allows. The trip will end at the Linn Cove Viaduct, which is known for great warblers as well as hawks and ravens flying over Grandfather Mountain.

Approximate Travel Time: 50 minutes (33 miles)
Conditions: Easy - Moderate - There will be several short hikes that will have steep sections and rocky, uneven terrain. Much of the outing will be flat and easy walking at various overlooks. There are bathroom facilities at Jeffress Park, Moses Cone Manor, & the Price Lake Picnic Area.

Trip 20, 40 - Price Lake & Green Knob Trail
This outing begins at the Price Lake Picnic Area to look for Indigo Buntings and other meadow species along the first part of the Boone Fork Loop Trail. It will continue to the Price Lake Campground and the trail around the Lake in search of breeding Blackburnian Warblers and a wide variety of other warblers, thrushes and flycatchers that can be found around Price Lake. After lunch we will hike the Green Knob Trail, which is about two hours of moderate to strenuous hiking through a fantastic variety of habitats with chances for a range of breeding warblers including Black-throated Blue and Green Warblers, Ovenbirds, and Canada Warblers as well as Yellow-bellied Sapsuckers, Brown Creepers, Common Ravens and more. The trail ends with a stunning view of Grandfather Mountain and a beautiful meadow that often produces Common Yellowthroats, Chestnut-sided Warblers, a range of sparrows and many other species.
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L770359
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L1048254
https://ebird.org/hotspot/L4759098

Approximate Travel Time: 31 minutes (20 miles)

Conditions: Moderate - Strenuous - The Price Lake Picnic Area and the trail around Price Lake are very flat and easy, though there are uneven surfaces. The Green Knob Trail is steep in some places and requires several shallow stream crossings (waterproof hiking boots are recommended). There are also a few spots along the trail where you will have to cross fallen trees. There are bathroom facilities at the Price Lake Picnic Area.

Friday, April 28			Saturday, April 29		
Half-Day Morning			**Half-Day Morning**		
Trip 1	Valle Crucis Community Park	6:30	Trip 21	Valle Crucis Community Park	6:30
Trip 2	Grandfather Mtn. Stewardship Fndn.	8:30	Trip 22	Grandfather Mtn. Stewardship Fndn.	8:30
Trip 3	Brookshire Park	6:00	Trip 23	Brookshire Park	6:00
Trip 4	Boone Greenway & Created Wetland	6:00	Trip 24	Boone Greenway & Created Wetland	6:00
Trip 5	Elk Valley Pres. & Banner Elk Mill Pond	6:30	Trip 25	Elk Valley Pres. & Banner Elk Mill Pond	6:30
Trip 6	Trout Lake & Bass Lake	6:30	Trip 26	Trout Lake & Bass Lake	6:30
Trip 7	Price Lake & Campground	6:30	Trip 27	Price Lake & Campground	6:30
Trip 8	Rich Mtn. Game Lands & Elk Knob S.P.	5:45	Trip 28	Rich Mtn. Game Lands & Elk Knob S.P.	5:45
Trip 45	Shawnee Road above Beech Mtn. Bog	6:30	Trip 46	Shawnee Road above Beech Mtn. Bog	6:30
Half-Day Afternoon					
Trip 9	Valle Crucis Community Park	1:00	Trip 29	Valle Crucis Community Park	1:00
Trip 10	Grandfather Mtn. Stewardship Fndn.	1:15	Trip 30	Grandfather Mtn. Stewardship Fndn.	1:15
Trip 11	Brookshire Park	1:00	Trip 31	Brookshire Park	1:00
Trip 12	Lewis Fork Overlook & Jefress Park	1:00	Trip 32	Lewis Fork Overlook & Jefress Park	1:00
Trip 13	Elk Valley Pres. & Banner Elk Mill Pond	1:15	Trip 33	Elk Valley Pres. & Banner Elk Mill Pond	1:15
Trip 14	Trout Lake & Bass Lake	1:00	Trip 34	Trout Lake & Bass Lake	1:00
Trip 15	Green Knob Trail	1:00	Trip 35	Green Knob Trail	1:00
Trip 16	Price Lake & Campground	1:00	Trip 36	Price Lake & Campground	1:00
Full Day – All Meeting Times A.M.			**Full Day – All Meeting Times A.M.**		
Trip 17	Grandfather Mountain	6:00	Trip 37	Grandfather Mountain	6:00
Trip 18	Blue Ridge Parkway North	6:00	Trip 38	Blue Ridge Parkway North	6:00
Trip 19	Blue Ridge Parkway South	6:00	Trip 39	Blue Ridge Parkway South	6:00
Trip 20	Price Lake & Green Knob Trail	6:00	Trip 40	Price Lake & Green Knob Trail	6:00
Trip 42	Boone Fork Loop & Surrounding Area	6:00	Trip 43	Boone Fork Loop & Surrounding Area	6:00

Sunday, April 30

Half-day Morning

Trip 41	Rarity Roundup!
Trip 48	Blue Ridge Parkway South

CBC Spring 2023 Banner Elk Registration Form

Registration Begins Saturday, March 25, @ 2pm.

Register online for Best Availability of Field Trips at

www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Name

_____

Address_____

_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip Code** _____

Meeting Registration (Member) _____x $35 = $_____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) _____x $40 = $_____

Buffet Dinner (A **Vegetarian dish is on the buffet line)**

_____ x $40 = $_____

Total Enclosed = $_____

Meeting registration at the door costs $45.

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for Field Trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right of the days.

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:

CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature_____ Date_____ Signature_____ Date_____

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens.

Cancellations will be refunded if received by 6pm April 16.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

A Carolina Young Birder visits Arizona for Camp Chiricahua

By Max Ramey

Let me start out by saying this, my experience at Camp Chiricahua was absolutely amazing and it was easily the most fun I have ever had in the seventeen years of my life. From the amazing birds to the great laughs, every second I spent in Arizona was unforgettable.

When I was traveling to the airport for my flight to Arizona, I had no idea what an unforgettable experience I was about to have. I knew it was likely to be a wonderful experience, but I was undeniably nervous. What would the other people be like? What would the leaders be like? As I boarded the plane these worries, mostly, faded into excitement. Once I arrived at the Tucson Airport and headed to the meeting place at the airport and met some of the campers and the camp leader, Willy Hutcheson, all my fears were instantly forgotten. We all got along great and had a lot in common! We were immediately immersed in conversation.

We soon left the airport for Madera Canyon, the first of many "Sky Island" mountain ranges we'd be visiting. It was an amazing experience to drive from the low desert cactus and scrub through high desert scrub, all the way up to pine oak forest! I had gone through some dramatic habitat changes in a few hours while driving before, but nothing like this! As we went up the mountain I was filled with a sense of awe. The mountain was a towering stone form, and it was dotted with pines and oaks – it was breathtaking.

Our first stop for birds was at Santa Rita Lodge to check out the feeders. I don't know what I expected, but it was far better than I could have imagined! We were almost immediately greeted by five species of hummingbirds: Rivoli's, Costa's, Calliope, Black-chinned, and dozens of Broad-billed. Seeing them all together around the feeders so close was awesome! I had never experienced anything like it before. We also had Arizona Woodpecker, Mexican Jay, Brown-crested Flycatcher, Sulphur-bellied Flycatcher, and wonderful looks at an adult male Hepatic Tanager. We reluctantly left the feeders to continue our drive to the Upper Canyon Trails. Here we hiked up the trail slowly and were able to enjoy the flora and fauna along the way. As we were enjoying this hike, someone up the trail yelled out "Trogon!!" We obviously all scrambled up the trail quickly and made it just in time to see our first, and only, Elegant Trogon of the trip. What a bird it was! Although it didn't stay long, we still had ample time to enjoy this amazing species.

The author, Max Ramey is at left.

On our second day, we spent some time in the awe-inspiring Saguaro "forest" at the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum. Besides the absolutely striking landscape of the Saguaro Cactus dominated park, we were able to get quite a few good birds. The highlights here were Rufous-winged Sparrow, very friendly Cactus Wrens, Gilded Flicker, Pyrrhuloxia, Hooded Oriole, and our first Gambel's Quails of the trip. After this we made our way to the Santa Catalina mountains, where we would be spending the next few days. On our first

afternoon there, we got some great birds like Mexican Whip-poor-will and Yellow-eyed Junco.

On our first morning in the Santa Catalinas, we had what was in my opinion the most significant bird of the trip. I was awoken by a harsh whisper uttered by our camp leader, Willy. Before I could even open my eyes, I heard it again, more clearly this time, "Pine Flycatcher!!" I jumped out of my tent and immediately heard the song of the Pine Fly. I walked over to Willy and, low and behold, there it was! Although the looks were backlit, as the sun wasn't up yet, we could barely contain our excitement! We had to be quiet because there were other people still sleeping in the campground, but we all danced happy jigs and fist bumped. This bird was the second North American record of the species and had been present in the area for some time. As the summer had gone on, it had been increasingly difficult to find, so we had really lucked out on this. Later that day we also had Red-faced Warbler, Greater Pewee, Olive Warbler, Sierra Madre Red Crossbill, Elf Owl, and Northern Pygmy Owl just to name a few.

After our stay in the Santa Catalinas, we headed to the Chiricauhas, making a few desert stops along the way. We stayed at Cave Creek Ranch for four days, and those days, as others told me they would be, were my favorites of the trip. I was blown away by how wonderful it was! There was a magnificent view of the red and orange rock face of the mountain watching over the canyon, an unbelievably clear water way, Cave Creek, behind the cabins, and a small pond in the center of the ranch, chocked full of rare dragonflies and amphibians. This place was so much better than I could have imagined!

On our first full day we spent most of our time in the lower portions of the Chiricahua Mountains. We snagged quite a few good birds including multiple Blue-throated Mountain Gems, a White-eared Hummingbird, and both Western and Whiskered Screech Owl.

The next day we made our way into New Mexico to bird in the desert and wrapped back around into Portal, AZ. We got some really cool species in the desert including Crissal Thrasher, Black-tailed Gnatcatcher, Cassin's Sparrow, Bendire's Thrasher, and Scaled Quail. Once we got back to Portal, we managed to find both Thick-billed Kingbird and Northern-beardless Tyrannulet. We spent the very end of the day watching some feeders and got a Lucifer and Violet-crowned (my 500th species) Hummingbird!

On our last day in the Chiricahuas we headed up to the higher portions of the mountains, scoring some southern AZ classics like Mexican Chickadee and Gray Hawk. Although Steller's Jay was not the highlight of the day, one individual certainly made a memorable move by pooping on my camera while we were eating lunch!

The next day we left for Sierra Vista. We had a lot of fun in the few days we stayed in Sierra Vista and had a few good birds in the Huachuca Mountains. The best of which were Short-tailed Hawk, Hermit Warbler, Canyon Wren, Buff-bellied Flycatcher and Rufous-crowned Sparrow. We also had some unforgettable experiences, most notably being stuck in a pizza restaurant after a powerful and unexpected monsoon hit and the power went out. Watching it rain sideways while the roads flooded was quite an experience for this North Carolina resident! We also saw a Banded Rock Rattlesnake, which was a runner up for unexpected!

Our last big stop was Sierra Vista, where we spent a few days. Our highlights while in that area were Green Kingfisher, Rose-throated Becard, and Tropical Kingbird. We also got to see the famous Patagonia Picnic Table! Our last day of birding was spent driving back to Tucson, and along that route, we stopped at Box Canyon. As soon as we got there, we were immediately greeted by our target, a singing Five-striped Sparrow, the fourth ABA rarity of the trip! It gave us some great looks before moving up the hill out of sight. After this we made the long journey to Tucson. We stopped

for an over summering Clark's Grebe before heading to the hotel near the airport. The last trip we would make was a short run over to a known Crested Caracara nest. Getting to see the pair majestically perched on a Saguaro with a dramatic sunset and monsoon in the background was a great conclusion to this once-in-a-lifetime trip.

The next day we all said our sorrowful goodbyes and parted ways to catch our flights back home. As my plane was taking off, I thought about this amazing experience. From making lifelong friends to seeing countless amazing birds, Camp Chiricahua was one of the best experiences of my life. I am so grateful to the Carolina Bird Club for providing me with a scholarship to attend the Chiricahua Youth Bird Camp. Thank You!

We had a total of 192 species of birds, 114 of which were lifers for me. We found over 1100 species of plants and animals in total, including 25 reptiles, 6 amphibians, about 550 insects, and 325 plants.

Opportunities for Young Birders

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Upcoming CBC Meetings

Spring Birding Weekend at Banner Elk NC – April 27-30, 2023
Fall Birding Weekend at Litchfield, SC – September 28th-October 1st, 2023

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May 15, 2023

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CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 69 **Issue 3** **June 2023**

Litchfield Beach Fall Meeting
September 28 – October 1, 2023
By Richard Hayes

It's Not Even Summer… But Start Thinking Fall! We are going to try this one more time!!! As many of you remember, CBC came within 3 days of meeting at Litchfield last fall, and then Hurricane Ian made landfall about 1 mile from our "to be" hotel!!! So, we have this planned pretty well as most of the Trip Leaders have agreed to lead their field trips this Fall. The dates for our meeting are Thursday, September 28 thru Sunday, October 1. Our headquarters are located at the Litchfield Beach & Golf Resort at 14276 Oceans Highway, Pawley's Island, SC 29585. Call 877-854-6358 for reservations. Litchfield lies halfway between Georgetown and Myrtle Beach, SC.

The accommodations at the hotel, both hotel rooms and meeting rooms, are excellent. The code you need to use in making your reservations is ***Carolinabirdclub23.*** Note that if anyone had a room reservation last year and prepaid for one night that they should call and transfer that prepayment to this year's reservation. The hotel breakfast buffet opens at 6 a.m. and has about everything imaginable on it. The restaurants, places to visit, attractions, and activities in this area of South Carolina are too numerous to list. Over 100 golf courses, killer shopping, dinner theater, fishing, sunbathing, and boating are just a few of the many things to keep non-birding partners busy, or that can be added for an extended visit.

Now to the important part, ***Birding!*** We are in the heart of coastal birding for South Carolina. Just next door to our hotel lies Huntington Beach State Park, which is one of the choice locations for birding in the Carolinas. As of 2023, the park list stood at 338 species. In addition to HBSP, we have Bull Island, South Litchfield Beach, Myrtle Beach State Park, I'On Swamp, Waccamaw NWR, Samworth NWR and Santee Coastal Reserve WMA, to name just a few. Some of the species we hope to see include Red-Cockaded

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), June 2023, Volume 69, Number 3 Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Woodpecker, Wilson's Plover, Piping Plover, American Oystercatcher, Marbled Godwit, Dowitchers, Glossy Ibis, Wood Stork, Black-Crowned Night-Heron, Anhinga, Clapper Rail, and Common Ground-Dove. Our Saturday evening speaker will be Christie Hand, Wildlife Biologist, Black Rail and Wading Bird Project Leader, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. Christie will review her ongoing research on the Elusive Black Rail. In their 2018 Species Status Assessment, the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) concluded that without help, the subspecies found in our state is likely to face extinction in as few as 50 years. Elusive Black Rail

Registration information, more meeting details, and trip descriptions will be included in the next Newsletter. Online registration will open at 2pm on August 19. Come on back to the South Carolina Coast and help us ***break that 200 bird species count once again***!

Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

Welcome New CBC Members!

Upgrade to Life Members

Katie Guthrie, Snow Camp, NC

Melissa Mantooth, Gastonia, NC

New Life Member

Melanie Crawford, Hillsborough, NC

Tam Howard
Trenton, NC

Kekona Novak
Inman, SC

Glenn Hasulak
Little River, SC

Nancy & Stephen Meyers
Summerfield, NC

Phyllis & Whitney Auer
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Mount Holly, NC

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Chapel Hill, NC

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Charleston, SC

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Newland, NC
Scott Carlson
Marge Carlson
Shilpi Agrawala
Durham, NC

Karen Carter

Steve Schafer
Phillip Smith
Durham, NC

Ara & John Graham
Cary, NC

Dianne Ford
Neal Jones
Graham, NC

Robin & Rick Reid
Clemmons, NC

Carolyn McAllaster
Durham, NC

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& Eleanor Shrode
Asheville, NC

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Chapel Hill, NC

Quintin Ellison
Sylva, NC

Billy, Brenna, Gavin & Laura
Tate
Matthews, NC

Jim Hunsberger
Ann Marie Amico
Fuquay-Varina, NC

Elaine Reed
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Linda Bennett
Wilmington, NC

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Winter Meeting at Nags Head, NC – January 18-21, 2024

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CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 69 **Issue 4** **August 2023**

Welcome to the 2023 Fall Meeting in Litchfield Beach, South Carolina!

By Julie Davis and Richard Hayes

The Carolina Bird Club is hosting our 2023 Fall Meeting in Litchfield Beach, South Carolina September 28 – October 1 and we are very eager to see what Fall migration has in store for us on the beautiful Grand Strand and Hammock Coast. This is a favorite location for meetings, and we have several field trips planned for our crown jewel for birding, Huntington Beach State Park. We have also tried to branch inland a bit for some of our adventures, seeking to find birds in newly conserved areas along the Black and Pee Dee Rivers.

Friday evening, our own Craig Watson, retired Migratory Bird Biologist at U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Wildlife Program Manager at U.S. Forest Service, and wildlife officer at Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency will present, "First Nesting and Range Expansion of Roseate Spoonbill and Limpkin in South Carolina". He will give the latest information on the first nesting of Roseate Spoonbills and Limpkins in South Carolina, the continued presence and breeding of the species in the state, the range expansion of both species, as well at the current status of the species in the state and what to expect in the future, and what other species may be on the move into South Carolina.

Our Saturday evening speaker is Christy Hand, Wildlife Biologist, Black Rail and Wading Bird Project Leader, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources. She will give us the latest update on the exciting Black Rail project!

As noted in our June newsletter, the meeting venue is in the Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort at 14276 Oceans Highway, Pawley's Island, SC 29585. The special rates that we negotiated for different types of accommodations expire August 15th. These were advertised as follows in the June newsletter:

- Summerhouse 1 bedroom Rate: $119.00 Nightly Cost with taxes: $166.00
- Seaside 1 bedroom Rate: $124.00 Nightly Cost with taxes: $195.00
- Seaside room Rate: $ 89.00 Nightly Cost with taxes: $133.00

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), August 2023, Volume 69, Number 4 Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

All members that had reservations last year for Litchfield MUST contact Litchfield and reconfirm their reservations as soon as possible. You MAY still be able to get a similar price after August 15th. You can call or go online to book your accommodation. Call 888-734-8228 or use this URL: litchfieldbeach.com/reservations. In case we are able to get an extension on these rates, the code is carolinabirdclub2023. Now look below to see what we have to offer for our field trips and to make your selections. Come join us as we chase the birds, visit old favorites and find new birding locales, and celebrate the conservation happening here.

Most field trips will meet their leaders in the hotel parking lot, but a few trips will meet the leader at the site. The time on the field trip schedule is the departure time from the parking lot at the hotel. Please check in with your leader 10 minutes before.

Registration: CBC Registration Desk: Location – Litchfield Beach and Golf Resort, Francis Marion Ballroom. Thursday 4:00pm - 9:00pm; Friday and Saturday 6:00am - 7:45am and 12:00pm - 1:30pm Field Trip sheets will be in the registration room. After picking up your registration packet, please put a check mark by your name on each of your trip sheets, so the trip leaders will know you have checked in for your trip. There will be people available to answer any questions regarding trips. If you are not able to attend a trip, please cross out your name, so someone from the wait list can fill your place.

Departure Times - field trip departure times are for leaving the hotel. Please arrive minimum l0-15 minutes early. For trips meeting their leader in the parking lot, look for the sign with your trip number and let the leader know you are there. We encourage carpooling. Please consider contributing toward gas expenses if you carpool. Trip leader cellphone numbers will be provided. If you cannot go on a trip, make every effort to advise one of the following: trip leader, meeting coordinator, or advise someone who is on the trip so the group doesn't wait for you.

All Day Trips - Please bring a lunch, snacks, water. Many of the sites are remote with no nearby restaurants.
Hotel - Returns-Morning trips should be back to the hotel by Noon, afternoon and all-day trips by 5:00 PM.

Field trips at a glance

Friday, September 29, 2022

Full-Day trips
Trip 1 – Santee Coastal Reserve – 6:15 am
Trip 2 - Huntington Beach State Park with the jetty – 7:15 am
Trip 3 - Cherry Grove, Heritage Shores, & MBSP - 6:30 am
Trip 4 - Yawkey Wildlife Center – 6:45 am

Half-Day Morning
Trip 5 - Birding and Butterfly Trip - HBSP Jetty - 6:15 am
Trip 6 - Lewis Ocean Bays Heritage Preserve – 6:30 am
Trip 7 - Hobcaw Barony - 7 am
Trip 8 - Litchfield Plantation (private neighborhood) – 7:30 am
Trip 9 - Hemingway Waste Treatment Plant - 6:45 am

Half-Day Afternoon
Trip 10 - Pawleys Island – North and South ends – 1:10 pm
Trip 11 - Huntington Beach SP without the jetty – 1:20 pm
Trip 12 – Brookgreen Gardens – 1:30 pm
Trip 13 - Murrells Inlet Salt Marsh Kayak trip -- 1:00 pm

Saturday, September 30, 2022

Full-Day trips
Trip 15 - Huntington Beach State Park with the jetty – 7:15 am
Trip 16 - Black River Cypress Preserve – Peninsula Campus & the Georgetown Fishing Pier – 6:45 am
Trip 17 - Hasty Point - Waccamaw NWR & Rocky Point Community Forest – 7:00 am

Half-Day Morning
Trip 18 - Lewis Ocean Bays Heritage Preserve – 6:30 am
Trip 19 - South Tibwin – Francis Marion National Forest - 6:45 am
Trip 20 - Santee Coastal and Delta Wildlife Management Area – 7:00 am
Trip 21 - Lake Busbee – 7:15 am
Trip 22 - Young Birders: HBSP – 7:30 am

Half-Day Afternoon
Trip 14 – Murrells Inlet Marsh walk/Limpkin Hotspot/Oyster Landing HBSP – Saturday only - 1:10 pm
Trip 23 - South Litchfield Beach – 1:20 pm
Trip 24 - Brookgreen Gardens – 1:30 pm
Trip 25 – Pawleys Island – North and South ends – 1:40 pm
Trip 26 – Cox Ferry – Waccamaw NWR – 1:00 pm

Sunday, October 1, 2022

Morning Half-Day
Trip 27 – Waties Island – 6:45 am
Trip 28 – Chasing the Rare Ones

Trips 1) Santee Coastal Reserve and Santee Delta – Friday Only. Our tour of the Santee Coastal Reserve's and Santee Delta will cover the mainland area including rice fields, river frontage along the South Santee River, magnificent cypress-tupelo swamp, upland fields, and mixed forest. Expect some waterfowl and wading birds, hawks, American White Pelicans, Wood Storks, probable rails, sparrows, raptors, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and migrating warblers. We may even find some owls if we are lucky, plenty of Bald Eagles.
Travel Time: 45-50 minutes
Facilities: None
Access conditions: Moderate walking (3-5 miles on foot) all day, buggy

Trips 2 and 15) Huntington Beach State Park. ($5 per person entrance fee to the park.) This Trip will cover the jetty at the Huntington Beach State Park, together with the nearby tidal creeks and flats, plus the causeway, Mullet Pond, the education center, salt marsh boardwalk and Sandpiper Pond. The jetty is one of best places in the state to find rarities. Remember that the jetty is nearly a 3 mile walk round Trip along the beach from the north parking lot. Bring water and lunch. Some food is available in the park store.
Travel Time: 15 minutes
Facilities: Yes
Access conditions: Walking all day

Trip 3) Cherry Grove Pier, Heritage Shores, Springmaid Pier, Myrtle Beach State Park. Heritage Shores Nature Preserve is a 0.8-mile loop trail located near North Myrtle Beach, South Carolina that features a river. The trail is good for all skill levels and primarily used for hiking, walking, nature trips, and birding.

Myrtle Beach State Park has one mile of beach, dunes, a pier, and oak- and pine-filled forest. You will spot common sea and shore birds, waterfowl, Osprey, pelicans, and eagles fishing at the first state park in South Carolina.
Travel Time: 60 minutes
Facilities: Yes
Access conditions: Moderate walking

Trip 4) Tom Yawkey Wildlife Center. - 6:45 am. This area is a SC Heritage Preserve and administered by the Department of Natural Resources. Public access can be rather limited. Target birds include American Avocet, American White Pelican, Barn Owl, early waterfowl, shorebirds, rails, raptors, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers, warblers, sparrows and more! Observation towers provide a panoramic view of the south Santee River Delta and surrounding area. This trip seems to be the one to get it all, in one long day! Bring food and water.
Limit: 12 Travel Time: 50 minutes
Facilities: Yes
Access conditions: A short ferry over to island at 8 am and bus transportation to key sites on the island; moderate walking in various locations

Trip 5) Birds and Butterflies. This trip begins at 6:30 a.m. at the North Beach Parking Lot at Huntington Beach State Park. From there, we'll take a leisurely three-mile round trip walk on the beach, jetty, and dunes in search of resident and migratory birds and butterflies. We'll enjoy the sunrise from the beach. The tide will be rising, making it easier to search for Seaside and Sharp-tailed Sparrows in the marsh behind the jetty. We'll spend time at the tip of the jetty for migrating shorebirds, waterfowl, and cormorants—Parasitic Jaeger is a possibility. Piping, Wilson's, Black-bellied, and Semipalmated Plover are found here. American Oystercatcher and Whimbrel may be present. There is often a small flock of roosting gulls and terns at the inlet. This is a great spot to watch for migrating Peregrine Falcon, Merlin, and American Kestrel. The cedar trees at the north end of park often host roosting Monarch butterflies and migration will be in full swing for Gulf Fritillary butterflies and others
Travel Time: 15 minutes
Facilities: Yes
Access conditions: Walking all day – 3 mile walk to Jetty and back

Trip 6 and 18) Lewis Ocean Bay. This 9,000 acre preserve includes 23 Carolina Bays. The preserve is classified as an IBA by Audubon. The chief target birds will be Red-cockaded Woodpecker and other species associated with pine savannas. The state's largest population of black bears occurs here as well as numerous rare plants including the Venus flytrap. The trip will be led by a Coastal Carolina University professor who conducts research at the site.
Travel time: 45 minutes
Facilities: None
Access conditions: Moderate walking

Trip 7) Hobcaw Barony. Entrance fee is $40 (cash or CC). Hobcaw Barony, a private, restricted access 16,000-acre research reserve/refuge located just north of Georgetown. The property contains a diversity of coastal plain habitats, including longleaf pine savannah and sandhills, pond pine pocosin, cypress/tupelo swamp, bottomland hardwoods, former rice fields, fresh- and saltwater marshes. Hobcaw is home for Red-cockaded Woodpecker, Bachman's Sparrow, Bald Eagle and a host of neotropical migrant breeding birds. The barony is also a site of historical and archaeological import, originally granted to Lord John Carteret by the Lord's Proprietors in the early 1700's.
Limit: 8 minimum – 14 maximum
Travel time: 25 minutes
Facilities: Yes Access: On the property, we will travel by bus and do some moderate walking

Trip 8) Litchfield Plantation. Join us for a tour of gated community, Litchfield Plantation in Pawleys Island. We will walk the live oak-lined streets to look for fall migrants and resident birds including Woodpeckers, Warblers, other passerines and possibly the resident Great-horned Owl. We will also visit the canal behind the plantation house to listen for rails and scan the marsh for blackbirds and others. Finally, we will stop to watch a backyard feeder for Red-headed Woodpecker, Brown -headed Nuthatch and others.
Travel time: 15 minutes
Facilities: Yes
Access: Moderate walking

Trip 9) Hemingway Waste Treatment Plant. This trip includes a visit, with permission, to the Hemingway Sewage Treatment Ponds, the top birding spot in Williamsburg County, South Carolina, with 18 different waterfowl species reported during the month of January. Shorebirds and passerines are also expected, but seeing large rafts of different kinds of ducks inland and up close is the highlight of this trip. If time allows a visit to the seldom-birded Johnsonville Sand Pits is planned. Please note that the aromas surrounding the sewage treatment ponds can be strong, pungent, and at-times even piquant.
Travel time: 70 minutes
Facilities: None
Access: Moderate walking

Trip 10 and 25) Pawleys Island. On this trip we will visit both north and south ends of Pawleys Island. First, we will go to the South end and walk the beach looking for gulls, terns, shorebirds and skimmers. As we drive from the South to North, we will be scanning rooftops for Eurasian Collared Doves and the marshes for waders and rails. At the north end, we will be closer to low tide and will scan towards Litchfield beach for loafing gulls, terns and pelicans.

Trip 11) Huntington Beach State Park without Jetty walk. ($5 per person entrance fee to the park.) This Trip will cover the causeway, Mullet Pond, the Education Center feeders, salt marsh boardwalk and an overlook on the marshy end of Sandpiper Pond (good for rails and bitterns). This trip will also visit the beach briefly but will not make the trek to the jetty. Shorebirds, rails, wading birds, hawks, migrating warblers, owls, and falcons
Travel Time: 10 minutes
Facilities: yes
Access conditions: Moderate walking

Trip 12 and 24) Brookgreen. Participants will spend the afternoon exploring beautiful statuary gardens and wonderful open woodland habitat for a variety of birds. Brookgreen Gardens features the only known aviary built atop an actual cypress swamp. Here you can enjoy a leisurely stroll on the boardwalk while watching magnificent birds feeding and flying in a natural setting: Great Blue Heron, Black-Crowned Night Heron, egrets, Hooded Merganser, White Ibis, Redhead and Wood Ducks, rails, American Bittern, wading birds, wintering passerines, Barred Owls, Bald Eagles!
Travel Time: 10 minutes
Facilities: yes
Access conditions: Moderate walking

Trip 13) Murrells Inlet Salt Marsh Kayak trip – Friday only -- 1:00 pm. This four-hour aquatic adventure will allow you to see the salt marsh the best possible way - by kayak. We will launch from the Oyster Shell Landing at Huntington Beach State Park and paddle across the high tide looking for Clapper Rails, Saltmarsh Sparrows, and Seaside Sparrows. The high tide makes it much harder for these secretive birds to hide, so we can hope to see quite a few of them. We will paddle to the sandbar behind the jetty for a

short walk to look at the hundreds of sandpipers, plovers, terns, gulls. Most of the rare birds found at Huntington Beach State Park are found on this sandbar. The water will be calm, but there will be a current (sometimes with us, other times not with us). When you register for this outing Paul Laurent will contact you to ask if you want a single or tandem (two-person) kayak. Full disclosure - we call tandem kayaks 'divorce boats'. Make sure you wear clothes and shoes that can get wet and/or muddy and bring a hat, sunscreen, etc... for an afternoon in the open. The boats are provided by Black River Outdoors, and lifejackets and a brief paddling tutorial are also provided. No kayaking experience is necessary for this outing, first time paddlers are welcome and even encouraged! The cost will be $58 per person, please bring cash to the landing to make life simpler for the good people at Black River Outdoors and also to get us out on the water faster.
Travel Time: 45 minutes
Facilities: Port-a-lets
Access conditions: Flatwater paddling

Trip 14) Murrells Inlet Marsh walk/Limpkin Hotspot/Oyster Landing HBSP – Saturday only - 1:10 pm. This field trip will take you to three different locations that are relatively close to the hotel on US 17. Oyster Landing is 3.4 miles north on US 17. Murrell's Inlet Marsh Walk is another 2.9 miles on US 17 North (Business). The Limpkin Hotspot is 20 minutes (8.7 miles) from Murrell's Inlet Marsh Walk going north on McDowell Shortcut Road for 7 miles to Blue Heron Blvd. Go 1.2 miles to the hotspot. The order will be determined by tide at the discretion of the trip leader.

Trip 16) Black River Cypress Preserve (BRCP) – Peninsula Campus and the Georgetown Fishing Pier (Saturday only) – 6:45 am. This all-day fieldtrip will cover 2 different habitats increasing the likelihood of getting a number of species. Black River Cypress Preserve is a private property conserved by the Butler Foundation and the Nature Conservancy. The Carolina Bird Club previously visited the Main Campus in Fall 2019. This time we will visit the Peninsula Campus with similar habitats including extensive bald cypress stands, mature pine forest, bottomland hardwoods, and early successional shrub/scrub areas. Expected species are mature forests and early successional migrants and resident species. We will also stop at the Georgetown Fishing Pier (either before or after the BRCP). The pier, located on an island at the convergence of the Great Pee Dee and Waccamaw Rivers, should prove to be a great migrant trap. We will explore the scrub and marshy areas as well as walk the pier to search for migrating passerines, terns, gulls and shorebirds.
Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour to the BRCP
Facilities: There are no restroom facilities. Food, drink, and snacks should be obtained ahead of time or along the route.
Access: Trail walking over sometimes uneven terrain at BRCP.

Trip 17) Hasty Point and Rocky Point Community Forest (Saturday only) – 7:00 am. The Carolina Bird Club has been granted special permission to bird a newly acquired, not yet open to the public, tract of the Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge, called Hasty Point. This former plantation located on the Pee Dee River includes former rice fields, longleaf and loblolly pine forests, bottomland hardwoods, tidal marsh, and bald cypress forests. In these diverse habitats, we will be able to tally a variety of waterfowl, wading birds, migrating and year-round passerines including the Red-cockaded Woodpecker. We will picnic here before proceeding to a nearby site on the Black River, the Rocky Point Community Forest. Here we will explore the waterfront as well as the nature trail to look for waders and migrating passerines. Rocky Point Community Forest is a property for which the Carolina Bird Club has contributed grant money for its preservation.
Travel time: 50 minutes
Facilities: Yes
Access conditions: Walking 3-4 miles on occasionally uneven terrain.
Facilities: Yes

Trip 19) Francis Marion Forest South Tibwin. Francis Marion National Forest has a very wide range of habitats, including longleaf pine savannas, floodplain forest, bald cypress-water tupelo sloughs, pine plantations, and even a bit of salt marsh. We'll walk through mature pine forest to medium-sized impoundments bordering the Intracoastal Waterway. These impoundments are where we hope to find a variety of waterfowl, shore birds, rails, bitterns, etc. Warblers, flycatchers, wrens, and birds of prey are also possible.
Travel time: 60 minutes
Facilities: None
Access: 2-3 miles of walking on wooded trails and open scrub dikes.

Trip 20) Santee Coastal and Santee Delta. This morning tour of the Santee Coastal Reserve's and Santee Delta will cover the mainland area including rice fields, river frontage along the South Santee River, magnificent cypress-tupelo swamp, upland fields, and mixed forest. Expect some waterfowl and wading birds, hawks, American White Pelicans, Wood Storks, probable rails, sparrows, raptors, Red-cockaded Woodpeckers and migrating warblers. We may even find some owls if we are lucky, plenty of Bald Eagles with chances for Golden Eagle.
Travel time: 40 minutes
Facilities: none
Access: 2-3 miles of walking over occasionally uneven terrain

Trips 21): Lake Busbee and Conway Treatment Plant. Lake Busbee is an eBird Hotspot and provides a feeding area for Wood Storks, herons, egrets, gulls, shorebirds, Osprey, and eagles. The marshes and canals around it provide wonderful habitat for a variety of waterfowl, waders, shorebirds, and rails. Hardwoods and some cypress lining the edges serve as good perches for raptors and habitat for passerines.
Travel time: 40 minutes
Facilities: None
Access: 2-3 miles of walking on level gravel road

Trips 22) Young Birders: HBSP. This is for those young birders, or those who just want a refresher. You will visit Huntington Beach State Park looking and listening for birds in a variety of habitats and observing behavior with a focus on identification techniques. This trip will be led by one of the premier birders in the Carolinas.
Travel Time: 10 minutes
Facilities: yes
Access conditions: Moderate walking

Trip 23) South Litchfield Beach. Located near our hotel, this beach is south of HBSP. Along the causeway leading to the beach is one of the best places to find rails. From the parking lot there is a 1.3 mile walk along the beach where we may see a variety of shorebirds. On the western side of the island, we may find plovers, skimmers, and sandpipers.
Travel time: 50 minutes
Facilities: No
Access conditions: Trail walking & boardwalks

Trip 26) Cox Ferry – Waccamaw National Wildlife Refuge – Saturday only – 1:00 pm. This trip visits the Cox Ferry Recreational Area with its 5 miles of trails through multiple ecosystems including coastal wetlands, cypress swamp, pine forests and the Waccamaw River, of course. Target species include migrating warblers, resident passerines such as the Red-cockaded Woodpecker, owls, raptors, and early-arriving waterfowl.
Travel time: 50 minutes

Facilities: No Access conditions: Trail walking & boardwalks.
Travel time: 50 minutes
Facilities: No
Access conditions: Trail walking & boardwalks

Trip 27) Waties Island. Waties Island is one of the last undeveloped barrier islands on the S.C. coast and a true oasis in comparison to the Grand Strand. Saved for generations by one family, Waties is now preserved by a conservation easement and is host to research projects by the faculty and students of Coastal Carolina University. We will be able to see a variety of migrating raptors, passerines, waders, and shorebirds as well as their resident counterparts.
Travel Time: 70 minutes
Facilities: None
Access: Moderate walking, including beach walking

Trip 28) Chasing the Rare Ones – Sunday a.m. – TBD. Did you miss out on a great bird? Saturday evening, groups are encouraged to self-organize to chase the birds you may have missed. There will be no designated leader or departure time. This is a do-it-yourself trip.

Bonus Trip Report
The North Carolina Sandhills

By Steve Shultz

A small group from the Carolina Bird Club visited the North Carolina Sandhills the weekend of June 3-4, 2023 as part of our "Bonus Trip Program". Known for specialties such as Bachman's Sparrow and Red-cockaded Woodpecker, the flora and fauna of the Sandhills made for a fun birding destination.

We started Saturday morning at Weymouth Woods State Park in Southern Pines, encountering half a dozen Red-cockaded Woodpeckers ("RCWs") and an amazingly cooperative Bachman's Sparrow. Other highlights along the trails included prolonged looks at Prothonotary Warbler and location of an Acadian Flycatcher nest. Later on, while exploring on a patch of private land, we heard, and then saw (very well!) a surprise Swainson's Warbler, a lifer for all the participants, as well as a swimming cottonmouth, both notable moments on a weekend with many.

Saturday may have been the hottest day of the year so far, and bird activity slowed after lunch. We made use of the fact that Susan Campbell holds the appropriate state and federal licenses to band birds, and quickly caught one Ruby-throated Hummingbird for each trip participant. The sample included adult male, adult female, and recently fledged young. Susan commented that she thinks this is the earliest hatch year bird she has ever caught. Each trip participant was able to release "their" hummingbird, now sporting a tiny aluminum bracelet for handy identification.

After a fun dinner at Belle Tree Tavern, we went out in search of nightjars, seeing and hearing a number of Common Nighthawks as well as hearing five and seeing two Chuck-wills-widows.

Sunday dawned cool and overcast, a big change from the lower 90s the previous afternoon. We explored portions of the Sandhills game lands, tallying Indigo Bunting, Blue Grosbeak, Northern Bobwhite, Orchard Oriole and other birds of open country, as well as locally restricted breeders like American Redstart.

The trip ended at McKinney Fish Hatchery with some slightly tardy Spotted Sandpipers, soaring Cooper's Hawk, and a trip list countdown.

All in all, a fun weekend with some great folks.

Keep an eye out for other CBC trips, and hope to see you in the field!

Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

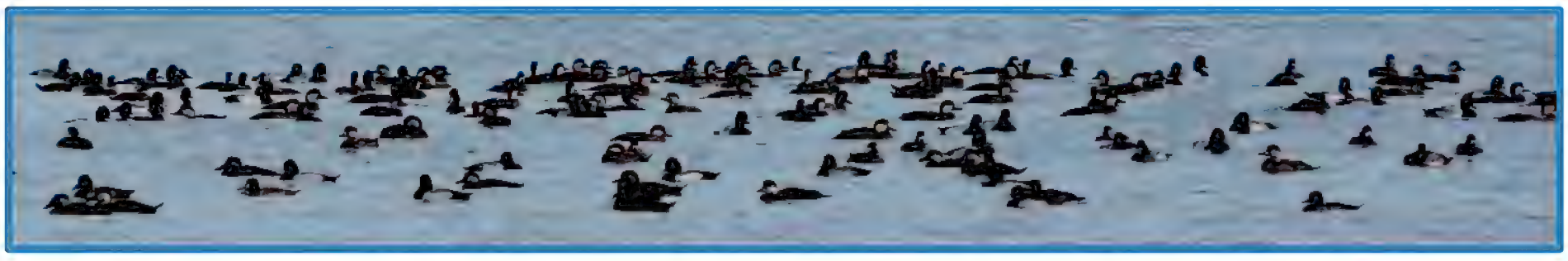
For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

The Carolina Bird Club has a New President

I would like to announce to the Carolina Bird Club membership that Susan Campbell has graciously agreed to take the reins and allow me to retire as president of the club. She has been duly nominated and voted upon. Covid 19 and certain weather events have made the past few years a challenging time for the Carolina Bird Club, but our shared passion for our Avian friends has allowed us to remain strong as a club. I thank the membership of the club for their support and would like all of you to help and assist Susan going forward to keep the CBC a meaningful part of your birding lives. As for myself, I plan to volunteer as a trip leader as often as I am needed at our seasonal meetings. I hope to see all of you soon.

Steven Tracy

Past President, Carolina Bird Club



WINGS OVER WATER - 2023

Mark your calendar for North Carolina's only wildlife festival which will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary on October 17-22, 2023 at the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Plan on joining us for special events as well as the return of Julie Zickefoose as our guest of honor. Julie is a world-renowned natural history writer, artist and wildlife rehabilitator. Julie will be with us for most of the week, and her keynote speech is entitled - ***Baby Birds - An Artist Looks Into the Nests***. In addition to being our keynote speaker on Saturday evening, she will be involved with several birding trips. Registration is now open at: https://2023wingsoverwater.my-trs.com/

AOS Checklist Supplement, v. 2023

Every summer, active birders and taxonomy wonks anticipate publication of the "Check-list Supplement" by the American Ornithological Society's (AOS) Committee on Classification and Nomenclature of North and Middle American Birds (a.k.a. NACC) This annual supplement includes revisions to the NACC's Check-list of North American Birds. Here is a summary of 2023's revisions that are most likely to affect U.S. and North American birders. You can read the supplement itself in Ornithology by visiting https://academic.oup.com/auk/article/140/3/ukad023/7220602?login=false. These two changes may affect life lists for North American and U.S. birders:

Two identical empid flycatcher "species" – Pacific-slope Flycatcher and Cordilleran Flycatcher – were lumped into one species, again called Western Flycatcher. The original binomial name - *Empidonax difficilis* – has been restored. For details on why this lump happened, see Alec Hopping's article in Vol. 72, No. 3 of North American Birds. This article was, in part, responsible for the lump. This amounts to a "minus one" for many listers, with ripple effects from life-lists down the line to patch lists.

Northern Goshawk has been split into two species - Eurasian Goshawk (*Accipiter gentilis*) and American Goshawk (*Accipiter atricapillus*). *This split reverses a lump from 1957 because Eurasian Goshawk has been determined to be more closely related to a number of other Old-World species than it is to American Goshawk. This adds a species to the ABA Checklist, as Eurasian Goshawk is a vagrant in North America with one record form Labrador and three from Alaska.*

The split of Antillean Euphonia (*Chlorophonia musica*) from three subspecies into three full species affects birders' lists who have spent time in the Caribbean region. The Hispaniolan Euphonia retains the binomial *Chlorophonia musica*, the former Puerto Rican subspecies becomes the Puerto Rican Euphonia (*Chlorophonia sclateri*), and Lesser Antillean Euphonia becomes *Chlorophonia flavifrons*. It is important to remember that Puerto Rico, although part of the United States, is not part of the ABA reporting area. None of the three species are found in the U.S. Virgin Islands.

CBC Fall 2023 Litchfield Registration Form

Registration Begins Saturday, August 19, @ 2pm.

Register online for Best Availability of Field Trips at

www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Name _____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip Code** _____

Meeting Registration (Member) _____x $35 = $_____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) _____x $40 = $_____

Italian Buffet Dinner (A **Vegetarian dish is on the buffet line)**
_____ x $40 = $_____

Total Enclosed = $_____

Meeting registration at the door costs $45.

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for Field Trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right of the days.

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:

CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature_____ Date_____ Signature_____ Date_____

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens.

Cancellations will be refunded if received by 6pm, September 14

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

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1809 Lakepark Drive
Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Fall Birding Weekend at Litchfield, SC – September 28-October 1, 2023

Winter Meeting at Nags Head, NC – January 18-21, 2024

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Deadlines for submission of Volume 69, Issue 5 is
September 15, 2023

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, $30; Family and Business, $35; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat, which is only available on line.* Tax deductible as allowable by law.

Cost for CBC bird checklists, including postage: 10@$5.45, 25@$13.40, 50@$27.00, and 100@$54.00.

Join the CBC at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/dues/. Enter change of address at https://www.carolinabirdclub.org/members/profile/. Order checklists from: CBC Headquarters Secretary, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Copyright © 2023.

Carolina Bird Club
www.carolinabirdclub.org

CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 69 **Issue 5** **October 2023**

CBC Outer Banks Bonus Trip
December 2 - 3, 2023

By Steve Shultz

Common Eiders at Jennette's Pier, Nags Head, Dare County, North Carolina. Photo by Steve Dowlan

Widely considered at the top of the list for early winter birding sites in North Carolina, the Outer Banks of Dare County are home to thousands of wintering swans, ducks, geese, shorebirds, waders, gulls, and more. Join members of the Carolina Bird Club as we explore the Bodie Island lighthouse area, Oregon Inlet, Pea Island NWR, the ocean beaches of Hatteras and Bodie Islands and other "hotspots".

The trip will focus on waterfowl and shorebird identification as well as building a broad trip list including everything from grebes to sparrows. The trip starts Saturday, December 2, at 7:30 a.m. in the parking lot at the south end of the new Basnight Bridge over Oregon Inlet. Saturday will be devoted to birding along the immediate coast. Sunday will include a stop at Alligator River NWR.

Detailed information including directions, lodging choices, dining opportunities and more will be provided to registrants. Birds that you can expect to see include loons, numbers of Tundra Swans and Snow Geese, most of the dabbling ducks that winter in eastern North Carolina, chances to see sea ducks including all three American scoters, gulls, wintering passerines, and winter shorebirds including

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), October 2023, Volume 69, Number 5 Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

American Avocet and possibly Purple Sandpiper, Long-billed Dowitcher and Piping Plover. Alligator River NWR may provide an opportunity to see Black Bear, raptors, shorebirds (if water levels are right) and numbers of Tundra Swan and waterfowl.

Logistics: The fee for this field trip is $65 and advance registration is required. Participation is limited to 12. Participants are responsible for lodging and meals. A number of motels, hotels, and other lodging are available in Nags Head north through Kitty Hawk. We will attempt to carpool in order to reduce the number of vehicles caravanning to the birding sites. Spotting scopes are useful if you have one. Dress for the weather and in layers. If we are enjoying a warm early winter, mosquito repellant may be useful. Lunch on Saturday will likely either be at a seafood restaurant or Subway. If you prefer, bring a bag lunch. A variety of restaurants are open for Saturday dinner. To register for this field trip contact Steve Shultz sshultz@nc.rr.com or (919) 629-7226. Upon confirmation of your slot on the trip you will be sent a registration form/waiver that can be submitted with your trip fee. Note that there is a modest fee to walk out on Jennette's Pier.

Red Knot, Oregon Inlet, Dare County, North Carolina. Photo by Steve Dowlan

CBC Returns Once Again to the Outer Banks for the Next Winter Weekend

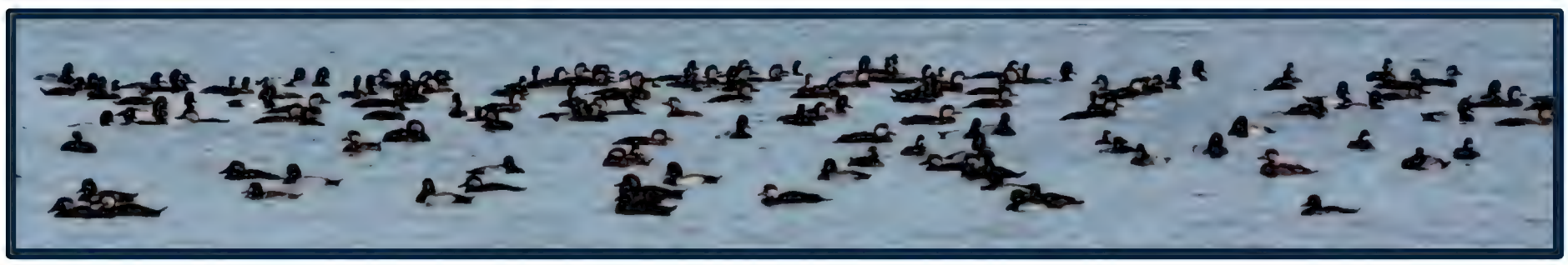
By Susan Campbell

The club will hold its 2024 weekend meeting on the Outer Banks of North Carolina from January 19th to the 21st. One of our most popular meeting locations, the area has a lot to offer—in addition to great birding. This time our host hotel will be the Comfort Inn South Oceanfront (8031 South Oregon inlet Rd., Nags Head) – a stone's throw from Whalebone Junction. This hotel puts us closer to many of the locations we will be birding over the course of the weekend. It has also been recently renovated. CBC has a history of meeting at this location over the decades. The staff caters to birders on a regular basis so they are adept at meeting our needs and special requests.

Please make your reservations early! We have negotiated terrific rates once again. As in the past, our block of 90 rooms consists of rooms of two types. Street side rooms are $64 a night and oceanfront rooms are $89 a night, Thursday through Sunday. Available rooms are a combination of 2 Double Beds or 1 King based on availability and on a first come, first served basis. A local room tax of 12.75% will also be charged per room. It is important to note that these rates are only guaranteed until December 18th (at midnight). *Also, it is important that you call the hotel directly at 252-441-6315 to reserve your room!

This past January, we had a very good turn-out, lots of birds and good weather. 163 species were observed over the three-day period with highlights being both Glaucous and Iceland Gulls, Razorbill, Parasitic Jaeger, Long-tailed Duck and also a very cooperative pair of Snow Buntings at Alligator River. Opportunities exist in the area for non-birding family members. You will find the Wright Brothers' Monument, Jockey's Ridge State Park, the NC Aquarium, Jennette's Peir as well as loads of eateries, a couple of local breweries and even a rum distillery—and much, much more!

Details of the weekend schedule, trip descriptions and registration material will be published in the next newsletter. But if you think you'd like to attend, do not delay in reserving a room as soon as possible.



CBC's Own Jeff Lewis Finds American Flamingos at the Outer Banks

By Susan Campbell
(Excerpted from article by Ben Graham, NC Audubon)

Jeff Lewis woke up Saturday, September 2nd with flamingos on his mind.

The iconic pink wading birds would be an exceedingly rare sighting on the Outer Banks, where Jeff lives and has been birding for 35 years. But reports had been trickling in that Hurricane Idalia had blown small

Immature flamingos are gray. Photo by Jeff Lewis

flocks of flamingos into Florida. Then on Friday, sightings popped up in Virginia and, of all places, Ohio. Maybe North Carolina could be next?

Jeff headed to Pea Island National Wildlife Refuge south of Nags Head, where extensive salt flats and shallow ponds often host large flocks of wading birds. Standing in an observation tower, Jeff settled in to scan the refuge's southern-most pond. "There were some pink birds way out there and I thought, 'Oh my God,' my heart started thumping," he said.

The birds were indeed flamingos: eleven of them, three adults and eight immature birds feeding in the shallows. Jeff sent out an alert to birders across the state. "It was heart-stopping," Lewis said. "My fingers were hitting all the wrong keys on my phone."

In the past few days, individuals and small flocks have shown up in a growing list of states, which now includes Alabama and Tennessee. By one tally, more than 150 sightings have been recorded across the Southeast in the last four days. The vast majority are being spotted in Florida, where, despite the bird's cultural cache, it remains rare.

American Flamingos breed in the Caribbean and Mexico. They were once more numerous in south Florida, but their numbers petered out nearly a century ago, alongside the decline of many wading birds, due to over-hunting for the feather trade and habitat destruction.

In modern times, individual flamingos have been known to show up after storms in places like Texas and Florida, most famously a flamingo named Pinky that arrived at St. Marks National Wildlife Refuge after Hurricane Michael in 2018 and has appeared every year since.

But the post-Idalia movement of flamingos is different. “The numbers involved here and how widespread they are, it’s unprecedented,” said Kenn Kaufman, renowned author and birder who has been tracking the post-storm movement of flamingos.

Large breeding colonies in Cuba and Mexico’s Yucatan Peninsula may be the source. One post-storm bird photographed in the Florida Keys had yellow bands on its leg, the same type of band used by researchers to track flamingos at a colony at Rio Lagartos on the north coast of the Yucatan, Kaufman said. The Yucatan is also where Hurricane Idalia lingered for days before heading toward the Florida Gulf Coast.

As for the fate of the wayward birds, it’s anyone’s guess. But Kaufman is optimistic. Flamingos have been documented flying in large flocks over the open ocean. “If I had to guess, I would imagine some of them would find their way back south,” he said. Others might remain, like Pinky.

In North Carolina, the flamingos were still present Monday morning, delighting birders who traveled across the state to get a glimpse. Tourists also stopped to see what the crowds were looking at.

Jeff Lewis’s hope is that the sighting might convert a few new birders. “That would be quite the spark bird,” he said.

American Flamingos in South Carolina

By Craig Watson
Photos by Pamela Ford

Many of us were anticipating finding storm-blown birds from Hurricane Idalia, but we never expected to find American Flamingos. Idalia came across South Carolina as a strong tropical storm, and as the weather cleared, guides with Coastal Expeditions (CE) of Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, made the voyage out to Bull’s Island on Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge to assess the damage to the property regarding the plausibility of continuing nature tours on the island. Coastal Expeditions is the major vendor for an assortment of guided trips to the island, with ferry or private boat access the only way onto the island.

While assessing the damage, Annie Owen and Captain Richard Stuhr of CE saw two pink birds in Summerhouse Pond. Expecting to find Roseate Spoonbills, a closer look revealed that they were not spoonbills, but two American Flamingos! Word went out late on September 1 and on September 2 a ferry full of birders, including Pamela Ford, who was on that first ferry trip (while I was in Tennessee!), and who took the accompanying photo of two American Flamingos were on their way to Bulls Island to look for the Flamingos. They were not disappointed! There were two present in the same area as the previous day.

Two American Flamingos at Bull's Island, Cape Romain National Wildlife Refuge, Charleston County, South Carolina

Coastal Expeditions showing birders the American Flamingos. -this is the truck and trailer

I was on my way to Tennessee for a family reunion when the news broke, and I was not able to take the first ferry out. However, I did reserve a ferry for the following Tuesday from Tennessee for when I returned, hoping that the flamingos would still be there. Many birders had already been out to see the flamingos, and by the time I went to Bull's Island, there was only one bird left. Would there be one left for us birders on this trip? Coastal Expeditions loaded people into the truck and tour trailer and off we went in search of the remaining flamingo. On our first stop it wasn't apparent that the flamingo was still present, but sharp-eyed Pamela Ford spotted the bird on the far side of the pond! What a relief!

We observed the bird for a while from the far side and then moved to a more strategic point. Coastal Expeditions was taking great care not to spook the remaining bird and parked the truck and trailer several hundred yards from the bird and led birders to within 150-200 yards using surrounding vegetation as cover. The single flamingo continues on Summerhouse Pond and was last reported on September 28, and CE is still providing the ferry 4 days per week. The ferry only runs four days per week, so unless one travels by personal boat to the island, reports of the bird will only be known on the day of the trip. The whereabouts of the other flamingo is not known, and we can only hope the flamingos gain enough nutrition and find their way back home, like the Yucatan Peninsula.

Many birders have been out looking for American Flamingos in other parts of South Carolina. There have been several observations. One is photo of a single American Flamingo that someone took over a duck hunting pond, and that observation remains anonymous, yet the photo is unmistakable. Another observation occurred at Botany Bay Plantation WMA in Charleston County on Edisto Island. Botany Bay hosts a volunteer hawk watch and during that hawk watch, the observers were amazed to observe 6-8 American Flamingos fly between their observation area and the ocean just above treetop level. It is not known where these birds are now or where they came from. This observation is documented in an eBird report for Botany Bay. Most recently, a single American Flamingo was observed at DeBordieu, a gated community in Georgetown County. That bird has been documented in eBird, but left shortly after these observations. The following day and in subsequent days, a single American Flamingo was videoed on the Santee Coastal Reserve south of DeBordieu, and there was one report of two birds being present. Other than the video, no other documentation or reports indicate the flamingo is still present at the Santee Coastal Reserve.

As observations of American Flamingos began popping up all over the eastern United States, I began researching how many American Flamingos had been observed in North and South Carolina previous to this current event. In eBird, there are four (4) observations recorded, three in North Carolina and one in South Carolina. In searching records of The Chat and Briefs for the Files, there are at least 11 reports

from North and South Carolina, none of which have made it into the eBird data. Excluding the observations of 2023, all (4) eBird records also show all observations with the escapee/exotic designation. The first observations for the Carolinas were in 1977 with a flock of 5 observed near Morris Island in Charleston County. All observations have been coastal in nature and generally in the summer months, although there are two winter records from North Carolina. There are some references to earlier observations from the Carolinas in other literature, but there is not much detail and represent only 2-3 additional occurrences. (*South Carolina Bird Life, Alexander Sprunt, Jr., E. Burnham Chamberlain, 1949, 1970*) (*Status and Distribution of South Carolina Birds, William Post and Sidney A. Gauthreaux, Charleston Museum, 1989) (Birds of North Carolina, North Carolina Department of Agriculture, State Museum, 1959, Revised Edition*).

A CBC Birding Scholarship Experience in Maine

Photos and Story by Gus Messinide

It's Sunday, June 25th and I'm on Hog Island in Bremen, Maine. There stands a small sound in between the island and the mainland, where you can see some small clustered buildings and some small forested hills. I am standing at the edge of the island, the ocean lapping at the sand a few feet below me. There is a group of about fourteen terns constantly in motion, soaring, diving, and emerging seconds later with a fish. Eleven of them are Common Terns and the other three are Roseate Terns.

For someone who hasn't had much experience. The two species can be differentiated with some amount of difficulty. Roseate Terns are decidedly lighter, with shallow, rapid wingbeats, forked tail, and at this time of year, darker bills. Apparently, they had been recorded getting closer and closer to the island at larger numbers, and this particular sighting seemed to cause excitement among the instructors.
Roseate Terns are one of countless species that are teetering on the precipice of extinction in North America. Historically they were hunted for their feathers, but in present times they are suffering from gull predation, habitat loss, disturbance by humans, and declining fish populations. By 2010, only 170 nesting pairs only were using a handful of over three-thousand islands in the state of Maine. Now there are believed to be 240 nesting pairs. One of the most important islands is Eastern Egg Rock, which is estimated to host over half of Maine's nesting Roseate Tern population.

The next day (Monday) at about 7:30 we started the roughly eight-mile boat ride to the island. Not long after we departed, we saw the first of many Common Terns also flying to Eastern Egg Rock to feed its young with the fish that were caught eight miles away. It will completely outstrip the boat and be at the island in about twenty minutes, beating us by half an hour. We also see many Common Eiders, Black Guillemots, Wilson's Storm-petrels, a lonesome Northern Gannet, and when we had almost reached our destination, one Atlantic Puffin. Once at the island, it felt so empty and eerie. The minefield of buoys that surround the mainland were now long gone and we are by far the only boat in the area.

Instead of the bustle of the fishing boats farther inland, we were surrounded by birds - dozens of puffins and guillemots floating in the water, female eiders followed closely by adorable chicks, male eiders

sitting on the rocks, laughing gulls flocking on the island, and the occasional Great Black-backed Gulls. Out here I learned that differentiating between the Roseate Terns and Common Terns is a walk in the park compared to Arctic and common Terns. After about ten minutes of observation time, one of the instructors yells out in excitement, “Black-Headed Gull!”. It was fighting with the Laughing Gulls on the rocks. This was a smaller gull with more restricted hood and a pale leading edge on the wings when it showed their underside.

This was by far the best bird that I would see the whole week. Black-headed Gulls are an Old-World species of gull that is a rare but regular visitor to the northeastern United States and eastern Canada. Earlier this year there had been one individual near Wilmington, North Carolina that I had tried and failed to see, which made this sighting even more special. Fifteen minutes later, my mind still thinking of the gull, I spotted the American Oystercatcher that had been sighted on the island for the last couple of weeks. A regular bird where I live, I had to be told that this was an unusual bird for the state. It stayed on the island for a few seconds before taking off and flying directly above the boat.

By ten o’clock, we’d made it back, concluding one of the best birding experiences of my life, even though we had less than twenty species and had lasted for less than two and a-half-hours. This was one of the many special experiences that occurred that week, and I can’t thank the Carolina Bird Club enough for granting me a scholarship.

Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 18 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

North Carolina Groups Recive a Grant for Wildlife Tracking Systems

By Susan Campbell

The Cape Fear Bird Observatory (CFBO) and University of North Carolina Wilmington (UNCW) proudly announce being awarded $200,000 from NOAA's National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) Science Collaborative. This grant funds a one-year project with aims of "Developing a Collaborative Community for Motus Wildlife Tracking Systems within NERRS."

This initiative seeks to leverage the Motus Wildlife Tracking Systems, currently deployed in over half of the NERRS, to gain vital insights into the presence and movements of volant animals. The project aims to

foster a collaborative community within NERRS, supporting research, education, and conservation efforts using Motus data. The approved actions include creating a dedicated webpage for Motus data display, developing educational resources for students and visitors, implementing in-person educational experiences, constructing new Motus systems at priority locations, and promoting collaboration among NERRS staff to ensure long-term success of this technology. These projects align with the NERRS' mission to advance estuarine research, education, and conservation efforts. Together with existing multi-year projects, the NERRS Science Collaborative will allocate more than $3.5 million in program funds this year to support crucial collaborative science initiatives.

This grant opportunity allows CFBO to work with other researchers and organizations, including Dr. Ray Danner, Associate Professor in the Department of Biology and Marine Biology at UNCW, who is a sub awardee on the project. “We are excited about this opportunity to expand the collaborative community of Motus users in the NERRS which exemplifies the NERRS’ commitment to advance science, conservation and education,” said Marae West, Chair of the Board at the Cape Fear Bird Observatory. “This project will enhance national and international monitoring networks with a goal of making data accessible to many people and organizations. We hope this project will lead to exciting scientific discoveries, from scientists testing hypotheses to conservationists planning how to manage their lands, and the public exploring migratory routes of their favorite bird species!” said Dr. Ray Danner, Associate Professor of Biology and Marine Biology at UNCW. For more information about this project and the NERRS Science Collaborative, please visit https://nerrssciencecollaborative.org/resource/2023-funding-announcement or contact Marae West at maraewest@capefearbirdobservatory.org.
To learn more about CFBO visit www.capefearbirdobservatory.org.

WINGS OVER WATER - 2023

Mark your calendar for North Carolina’s only wildlife festival which will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary on October 17-22, 2023 at the Outer Banks in North Carolina. Plan on joining us for special events as well as the return of Julie Zickefoose as our guest of honor. Julie is a world-renowned natural history writer, artist and wildlife rehabilitator. Julie will be with us for most of the week, and her keynote speech is entitled - ***Baby Birds - An Artist Looks Into the Nests***. In addition to being our keynote speaker on Saturday evening, she will be involved with several birding trips. Registration is now open at: https://2023wingsoverwater.my-trs.com/

CBC Needs a New Headquarters Secretary!

After ten years of service, our current Secretary, Carol Bowman, is retiring. She has been very dedicated to the Club during her tenure. But the time has come for her to step down. So, we are now advertising for a candidate to step into Carol’s shoes. Individuals who are interested in this part time position should be detail oriented, have a basic knowledge of Google Docs, Microsoft Word, Excel and Quick Books. Time required is approximately 25-30 hours a month, with obviously more necessary around and during the (three) seasonal meeting times. Compensation is $600 a month.

If you are interested and would like more specific information about the responsibilities and the application deadline, contact Susan Campbell (susan@ncaves.com). We hope to have the position filled before the end of the year.

Carolina Bird Club Grant Awards and Updates for 2022 and 2023

By Craig Watson

The Grants Committee of the Carolina Bird Club has been active for the past two years, with eleven (11) grants funded: seven for avian related research (R), three for conservation (C), and one for a regional bird festival (C,E). These are outlined below by year (*R=research, C=conservation, E=education*):

2022

1) Award of $1772.73 to Audubon South Carolina to conduct workshops to establish new "landlord" for new colonies of Purple Martins, and to study pre-migration roosts. Young birds will be captured and outfitted with nanotags to determine departure dates, routes of migration, and stop-over locations. **(R,C,E)**

2) East Carolina University (Carol Gause, Biology Dept.) was awarded $4500 to fund research titled: Effects of land management on breeding success, dispersal, and population genetics of a threatened freshwater marsh bird, the King Rail. This study will provide land managers up to date information on population status, breeding habitat use, and inform managers on how best to manage marshes for this species. **(R,C)**

3) (2022) Cape Fear Bird Observatory, Susan Campbell, $500 for start-up materials for this new bird observatory. (C,R,E)

4) (2022) Three Rivers Land Trust-donation of $3500 for the acquisition of 20 acres in Anson County, NC called the Flatrock Tract. This is part of the ongoing conservation efforts of the Three Rivers Land Trust in the Yadkin River corridor. **(C)**

5) Morrow Mountain State Park – award of $5000 to the Three Rivers Land Trust to add 216 acres to Morrow Mountain State Park. The addition conserves priority bird species and habitats in that region of North Carolina. **(C)**

6) Breeding Biology of Hermit thrushes in the Southern Appalachians of NC - Vanessa J. Merritt and John A. Gerwin, North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences. Project is to complete data analysis and prepare data for publication and linked to previously funded project by the CBC. Award is $1200. **(R)**

2023

7) Wings Over Water Festival (WOW), $2000, with increasing costs of operation, the CBC has decided to solidify and establish a firm relationship with WOW by providing them with $2000 for operations funds, and without these funds WOW would not be as successful in its mission to promote birding and bird conservation. Funds were awarded to the Coastal Refuge Wildlife Refuge Society. **(C,R)**

8) University of Georgia, Warnell School of Forestry and Natural Resources - $4565.00 was awarded to Wayne Ryan, graduate student at the university, for research titled, "Ecological Effects of Watershed Manipulations on Avian Populations in the Southern Appalachian Mountains". This insightful research will address effects of accelerating climate change and how it may affect avian communities and will be focused on avian species and communities in the Southern Appalachians, where many high priority species and habitats are under threat from current and future impacts of climate change. **(R,C)**

9) Agape Center for Environmental Education, University of Miami - Passive Population Monitoring Using Audio and Visual Sampling Methods in Bird Species, $2093.63. This unique project will focus on passive monitoring of Eastern Bluebird and Eastern Screech Owl and how it relates to disturbance to birds. The educational component is targeted toward diverse audiences and participation of those audiences. Other technologies such as YouTube, eBird, and BirdNET-Pi will be used to store, analyze, and disseminate data and results. The study will be conducted at the Agape Center in Harnett County, North Carolina. Data will be entered in eBird, NC Bird Atlas, and results will be distributed widely upon completion of the project. **(R,C,E)**

Northern Bobwhite. Photo by Steve Dowlan

10) Movement, Habitat Use, Dispersal, Home range, and Survival of the Northern Bobwhite on The Indian Creek Wildlife Area of Sumter National Forest. Midlands Quail Unlimited (QU), partnering with US Forest Service, Carolina Bird Club, and other partners to study habitat and movements of Northern Bobwhite in response to varying types of timber harvests, prescribed fire regimes, and hunting pressure, and site index. Study will document dispersal, survival, and nest site selection. QU wanted significantly more funds than the CBC has ever awarded, yet were pleased with our contribution of $2000. The primary expense will be tracking equipment, and the project will be conducted on the Sumter National Forest in South Carolina. **(R,C)**

11) Three Rivers Land Trust, $2000 for acquisition of 55-acre Eastwood Preserve Connector Tract. Total acquisition costs are approximately $660,000. The project connects two highly important NC Heritage Preserves in the Sandhills region, Nick's Creek and Eastwood Sandhills. This acquisition will consolidate ownership and enable the entire area to be managed on a more landscape scale. Species benefiting will be Northern Bobwhite and other sandhill specialties. Non-avian species benefiting are several rare and endangered plants. **(C)**

Approximately $29,000 has been awarded to these 11 grants, with an average expenditure of ~$14,500 annually for research/educational grants and conservation actions. The conservation actions have been for land acquisitions by the Three Rivers Land Trust for acquisitions for various properties within the Piedmont and Sandhills Region of North Carolina.

The CBC has approximately $10-15K annually to award toward research/educational grants and conservation actions. Exceeding these amounts requires Executive Committee approval.

The Grants Committee is working with Kent Fiala to add a section to the Grants/Scholarship pages for reports that have been submitted by the awardees for each of the projects. Awardees are required to submit a final report. This is an ongoing process, and that page should be available in the near future.

Current CBC Grant Committee members are Craig Watson, Mac Williams, Barbara (Kitti) Reynolds, and Julie Lee. If any members are interested in becoming an active member of the Grants Committee, please contact Craig Watson.

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1809 Lakepark Drive
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Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
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Winter Meeting at Nags Head, NC – January 19-21, 2024

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Deadlines for submission of Volume 69, Issue 6 is
November 15, 2023

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, $30; Family and Business, $35; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat, which is only available on line.* Tax deductible as allowable by law.

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CBC Newsletter

ISSN No. 0162-7120

For members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc.,
Ornithological Society of the Carolinas

Volume 69 **Issue 6** **December 2023**

Back to the OBX - Winter Birding at its Best!
Thursday Through Sunday, January 18-21, 2024

By Susan Campbell

Ruddy Turnstone with Blue Crab. Photo by Deb Regula

Host Hotel

Comfort Inn South Oceanfront

***8031 South Oregon Inlet Rd., Nags**

Head, NC (reservations: 252-441-6315)

Check-in time 4pm

Check-out no later than 11:00am

Head to the Outer Banks and be prepared for some terrific birds!

The Outer Banks are separated from the mainland by immense bays. Here the warm waters of the Atlantic Ocean, fueled by the not-too-distant, warm offshore Gulf Stream allows both water and air temperatures on this chain of sandy barrier islands to moderate the winter climate here and on the inner banks. The Outer Banks area is a natural magnet for wintering birds. Overwintering waterfowl find the area ideal as feeding opportunity abounds. Wading birds and passerines, too, arrive for brief stop-overs or over-winter. Yes, these barrier islands' relatively warm conditions provide habitat niches that allow migrating birds to linger, some remaining as they find the area has sources of fuel to survive the winter months. Air temperatures on the NC barrier islands in winter can be five to ten degrees

CBC Newsletter (USPS# 023-534), October 2023, Volume 69, Number 6. Published bimonthly by the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to *CBC Newsletter*, Carolina Bird Club, Inc., 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

warmer than a few miles inland of the bays. Couple these conditions with the amazing variety of habitats and the setting is ever-present for high daily bird counts. Bird several habitats and daily counts can mount to over 100 on an all-day expedition.

National Wildlife Refuges along the Banks have significant area for migratory waterfowl and wintering resident species but most protected area is impossible to access except by boat, or restricted to the ocean shoreline. However, Pea Island NWR provides the quintessential opportunity to explore a section of the remaining undeveloped wilderness in earnest, and just a short distance from our host hotel. Nearby Alligator River NWR and Mattamuskeet NWR provide additional opportunities for seeking access to habitats for both expected and always hoped-for unexpected species. Over 160 species were recorded last year during the course of the weekend. A Golden Eagle always seems to tease at Alligator River NWR. The winter of 2023-4 had a couple Snow Buntings and an Ash-throated Flycatcher there as well. Of course, gulls were as abundant as ever with even Iceland and Glaucous making appearances on The Point. Wintering Ruby-throated Hummingbirds that spend the colder months along the coast in some numbers, were spotted as well.

The CBC Board is proud to invite you to the Outer Banks. Our host hotel and the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce also extend a warm welcome to members and guests to join us for a fun-filled weekend of birding. There is much information that follows. Please read carefully.

The northeast coastline of North Carolina is probably at its best birding in winter. Your CBC Board has planned Sunday morning trips with the more unusual species that have been observed the goal of more than one trip this year.

Four half-day trips have been planned specifically with wheelchair users in mind. All birding locations have trails designated for wheelchair users or the walk goes to boardwalks. These boardwalks will allow access to soundside and oceanside viewing. These trips are available to all attendees and would be beneficial for those seeking good footing.

Pea Island NWR Is the primary hotspot at all of our winter weekends, seemingly the year-round site for those expected and unexpected birds. We will bird many of the area's best sites from the Currituck Banks Forest at Corolla to Cape Hatteras, and inland in Hyde, Tyrrell and Dare Counties.
For so much more see the Trip Descriptions and plan for a full weekend of birding.

Comfort Inn South Oceanfront- our wonderful host hotel

Jennette's Pier – excellent ocean watching: right next door!

The Comfort Inn South Oceanfront will be CBC headquarters for the meeting. This Inn boasts amenities that include private balconies, in-room refrigerator and microwave. Go to https://www.choicehotels.com/north-carolina/nags-head/comfort-inn-hotels/nc236 for more information about the welcoming hotel.

*The CBC rates for this meeting are truly outstanding at $89 per night for an ocean view room or $64 per night for the street side. This cost does not include tax of 12.75%. When you call **(252) 441-6315 to make your reservation**, let them know you are with the **Carolina Bird Club – January 2024** to receive the special rate. **This rate will be guaranteed until December 18, 2023 (at midnight).** Check-in time is 4 PM and check-out is by 11 AM.

*Please sign up for the banquet buffet dinner on Saturday evening on the CBC website when you complete your trip selections. Sign-up attempts at the registration table will be too late. Advance reservation is required for the banquet. The buffet cost, including gratuity, is $40 per person, again due with your meeting registration.

*Also note that this hotel does not currently provide drink or meal service. Our buffet will, therefore, be catered. There are, of course, nearby restaurants that span the spectrum: from fast food places to very nice, sit-down eateries. Due to the time of year, some of these will be closed for the season. However, we will have a list of all the restaurants that are open at the registration table for participants to refer to. There is also a Food Lion grocery store on the main road (NC 158/Croatan Highway) just north of the hotel. More grocery options are also available further up the beach.

*The deadline for hotel reservations is December 18. Room reservations after this date cannot be guaranteed the CBC conference rate.

Be sure to visit the conference registration table as soon as you check-in at the hotel, and sign in for the meeting. Your meeting packet will include a confirmed event schedule and driving directions for each birding trip, plus your banquet ticket(s) - if applicable.

We will have a presentation Friday and Saturday evening. These will be preceded by a social with cash bar. Friday evening, longtime CBC member and butterfly biologist Jeff Pippen will present *Carolina's Wild Butterflies: Identification and Monitoring*. This program will introduce you to North Carolina's wild butterflies, how to identify them, and how to become a citizen-scientist butterfly monitor. Because insect populations are declining at alarming rates, long-term monitoring of butterfly populations across the Carolinas will provide valuable data for scientists and land managers. The Carolinas Butterfly Monitoring Project aims to teach interested citizen scientists how to identify local butterflies and establish a fun, easy-to-conduct survey using standardized protocols where you can go for a walk and record the butterflies you see. Data are contributed to a national database for scientists to examine butterfly population trends across the continent.

This Birding Weekend's catered buffet dinner will be on Saturday evening. The banquet will be at 6:30 PM after the social. The evening keynote speaker presentation will begin at 7:30 PM. Our Keynote Speaker will be Cape Fear Bird Observatory's co-founder and managing director, Evan Buckland. Her talk is entitled *"Painting by Numbers: Investigating Painted Bunting Populations along the Carolina Coast*." Evan will bring us a status report on the distribution of the Painted Bunting population in North Carolina. Monitoring (including banding) of buntings is one of the current foci of the fledgling bird observatory. She will discuss the project's objectives, methods and most recent results. Come prepared to learn more about one of the Carolina's most colorful songsters!

Online registration begins Saturday, December 9th at 2:00 PM, and closes January 7th, 2024 at noon.
Please note that January 7th, 2024 at noon is the last date for any refunds for CBC registration or dinner cancellations. Also, very important - if you have to cancel, please notify the Headquarters Secretary so we can give your field trip space to someone on the waiting list. Walk-in registrations are accepted at the meeting

All trips will leave from the hotel. Please reserve your room and thank them for their hospitality. CBC greatly appreciates your use of the host hotel. The rate is exceptional and you actually save CBC costs by staying with us.

Registration packets will also contain directions to the locations of the field trips offered during the course of the weekend. The *North Carolina Birding Trail*—*Coastal Plain Trail Guide* can be used to study up on the Outer Banks sites you will be visiting, as well as planning your trip to and from Kill Devil Hills. John Fussell's A Birder's Guide to Coastal North Carolina and Mike Tove's Guide to the Offshore Wildlife of the Northern Atlantic are standards for birding this area of North Carolina.

Important note: South Pond (south of the Visitor's Center) at Pea Island NWR, other than viewed from the NC12 shoulder, is ABSOLUTELY off-limits to casual birding. Please do not enter posted areas at South Pond or any other site unless you possess specific, explicit permission. Trespassers are being charged and fined. Our event is registered with the NWR to allow management of the entire NWR and permission into areas limited to the general public. Your leader will know where you are permitted access. If you are unsure, do not enter.

Finally, our trip leaders help the Board before the weekend with important planning assistance. So please thank them for the personal goals of a trip that helps you locate, identify and learn the rich bird life in the area.

As is becoming the tradition, we will have a raffle as part of our weekend. Proceeds will benefit our Young Birders (camp scholarship) Fund. Please consider bringing a bird related item or two for donation at the meeting. And as many of you know that regularly attend our meetings, we will also have bird books and magazines available for a small donation that will also go to the same fund.

Registration: Lobby at entrance to Ballroom.
January 18th, Thursday 4:00pm – 9:00pm; January 19 and 20, Friday and Saturday, 6:45 – 7:45am and 12:30 – 1:30pm

Field Trip sheets will be in the registration room. After picking up your registration packet, please put a checkmark by your name on each of your trip sheets, so the trip leaders will know you have checked in for your trip. There will be people available to answer any questions regarding trips. If you are not able to attend a trip, please cross out your name, so someone from the wait list can fill your place.

Departure Times: The field trip departure times are for leaving the hotel. **Please arrive minimum10-15 minutes early**. Look for the sign with your trip number and let the leader know you are there. We encourage carpooling. Please consider contributing toward gas expenses if you carpool. Trip leader cell phone numbers will be provided. If you cannot go on a trip, make every effort to advise one of the following: trip leader, meeting coordinator, or advise someone who is on the trip so the group doesn't wait for you.

***All Day Trips*:** Please bring a lunch, snacks, water. Many of the sites are remote with no nearby restaurants.

Hotel Returns: Morning trips should be back to the hotel by noon; afternoon and all-day trips by 5:00 PM.

Thursday January 18 4:00-9:00PM Opening Registration Dinner on your own	Location: Host Hotel
Friday January 19 Field Trips (1/2 and full-day trips) Dinner on your own. 6:00-7:00PM Cash Bar/Social Hour 7:00PM Evening Program. "Carolina's Wild Butterflies: Identification and Monitoring" by Jeff Pippen, Director-Carolinas Butterfly Monitoring Program.	Location: Start at Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel
Saturday January 20 Field Trips (1/2 and full-day trips) 5:30-6:30PM Social Gathering. Cash Bar. 6:30-7:15PM Banquet Dinner 7:15-7:30PM Announcements. 7:30-8:30 PM Evening Presentation. "Painting by Numbers: Investigating Painted Bunting Populations Along the Carolina Coast" by Evan Buckland-Co-founder and Managing Director, Cape Fear Bird Observatory 8:30PM Species Countdown	Location: Start at Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel. (Pre-registration required for the banquet dinner) Location: Host Hotel Location: Host Hotel

2024 CBC OUTER BANKS MEETING FIELD TRIP DESCRIPTIONS

HALF-DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trip 1 – Palmetto Peartree Preserve & Futch Game Lands

We will look among the possible seven species of woodpeckers for the endangered Red-cockaded Woodpecker. During our search we should see a good assortment of woodland and edge species. After birding here, the group will travel to the Futch Game Lands where the flooded fields and catfish ponds hold ducks as well as other water birds and shorebirds.

Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour

Conditions: Vary from uneven trails to roadside surfaces. There is a service Station at Mann's Harbor; otherwise, plan on no restrooms.

Trips 2, 21 & 29 – Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk

Audubon Preserve is a remnant of maritime sandy forest and brush along Currituck Sound. The varied habitats and boardwalk will provide opportunity for land and water birds, and raptors are often identified as they hunt over the woodlands. Duck Town Boardwalk is a 0.4-mile gem. We will scope the sound for loons and ducks. Orange-crowned Warbler is often found along the boardwalk as well as winter sparrows.

Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes to Pine Island

Conditions: Vary from wet turf to gravelly trails to a boardwalk. Restrooms are available at Duck.

Trips 3 & 22 – Alligator River NWR (Rt. 264 Corridor to Milltail Road)

The east side of ARNWR has woodland but also many wet fields. We will travel Rt. 264 as far as Stumpy Point Bay, targeting Pamlico Sound waterbirds. Then the drive will go west into ARNWR to Milltail Road's boat ramp area seeking woodland species, and finishing at the fields across from the Maintenance Buildings or the trail at the Rt. 64 intersection. Uncommon birds in the area have included Golden Eagle and Rough-legged Hawk.
Approximate Travel Time: 40 minutes
Conditions: Gravel roads. Restroom options will be quite limited.

Trip 4 – Corolla Escapade (A Handicap Accessible Trip)

Four HC accessible trips are scheduled this weekend, and several other of our trips are partially HC accessible. There should be space available for non-HC attendees – same great birding but with good footing. This trip will visit both public and privately-owned boardwalks to Currituck Sound at Currituck Banks Forest Trail Preserve, the OBX Center for Wildlife Education and Duck Town Boardwalk.
Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour
Conditions: Boardwalks. Restrooms will be at Duck only, or a stop at a service station.

Trips 5 & 24 – Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike

In the morning the pond behind the PI Visitors Center is lit by the rising sun. Resting and actively feeding birds are in the best direction for viewing field ID clues. The adjacent dike affords views of North Pond and Newfield Pond, capped by a two-story platform that also overlooks the inland waters and marsh.
Approximate Travel Time: 40 minutes to the Visitors Center
Conditions: Wide grassy trail to the viewing platform. Restroom at the Visitor's Center

Trips 6, 27 & 36 – Jennette's Pier (Nags Head) Ocean Watch. ($3 entry fee)

A scope is essential on this trip to scan the Atlantic for the winter nearshore birds and occasional pelagic species that feast on the bounty of the ocean. If you don't have a scope, there should be plenty in the group. Your leader will scan the ocean with you as you watch the action for loons, grebes, scoters Razorbills, Gannets, sea ducks, gulls, and hopefully a Dovekie or shearwaters.
Approximate Travel Time: 15 minutes
Conditions: Boardwalk. Restrooms located in the Pier Entry Building.

Trip 7 – Waterfowl ID Workshop/Field ID

This workshop will focus on key characteristics, such as profile, foraging behaviors, and habitat. The leader will provide clues to field ID features or activity which can aid birders on all levels to describe a species. The field trip location(s) will be as determined by the leader.
Approximate Travel Time: TBD

Trips 8, 12, 25 & 33 – Oregon Inlet and Bodie Light

It seems every winter an unexpected bird spends the season in the dunes overlooking the ocean on the south side of Oregon Inlet. The local Peregrine Falcon never reveals its nighttime roost, but who looks for it at those hours? On the north side of the bridge is the Oregon Inlet Fishing Center, where we will scope the inlet for Long-tailed Duck and other diving ducks. We'll continue on to Bodie Lighthouse Pond where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the observation platform. The boardwalk to the platform traverses marsh that is good for rails and marsh wrens. The platform is the last stop as the evening light can be spectacular on the waterfowl.
Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes to Oregon Inlet
Conditions: Sand paths on the south side of Oregon Inlet, pavement on the north side and where a restroom is available. A restroom is also located at the lighthouse.

Trip 9 – Nags Head Woods Preserve & Jennette's Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip)
The forested sandy dunes of the Nature Conservancy's Nags Head Woods Preserve are home to woodland species, some of which curtail migration for the warmer zone of the OBX. Their Handicap Accessible Trail offers opportunity for chair users and other participants, to search for birds in mixed foraging flocks. See Trip 6 for a description of Jennette's Pier. ($3 fee to the pier)
Approximate Travel Time: 10 minutes to Nags Head Woods
Conditions: Packed trail and boardwalks. A restroom is in the Pier Access Building.

Trip 10 – Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve area & Kitty Hawk Pier ($3 Entry Fee)
Several protected woodlands at Kitty Hawk will provide opportunity for wintering land birds. An Albemarle Sound view stop is planned and special permission has been acquired with the Pier at the Hilton Garden Inn at Kitty Hawk for ocean viewing. This final stop will fully and truly round out the birding opportunities. If access is unavailable at the pier due to hotel events, the Regional Beach Access will be used.
Approximate Travel Time: 20 minutes
Conditions: The pier or Beach Access has a restroom.

Trips 11 & 34 – Pea Island NWR North Pond and Visitor's Center
North Pond is open to the public all year. Simply enjoy the thousands of ducks and other water birds. Know we have a great opportunity to be a part of yet another tour to see the expected and unexpected at PINWR. A stop in the Oregon Inlet area may be included as time permits.
Approximate Travel Time: 30 minutes
Conditions: Easy going, wide, flat trails with impoundment overlooks. Restrooms located on site.

Trip 13 – Roanoke Island Marshes & Wanchese Harbor and Marshes
Habitats will include woodland edges for winter land species and marsh birding and water views over the sound. We will tailor the visit based on local observations but will likely start at the Roanoke Marshes Game Lands in search of species such as Marsh Wren, Seaside Sparrow, and Clapper and Virginia Rails. The impoundment should hold a few shorebirds and waterfowl. Then we will stop by the harbor in Wanchese Village and scan the surrounding water and marina, interesting for the numerous gulls and land birds that roam about oyster piles. Just south of the harbor is a road across the marsh ending at the sound.
Approximate Travel Time: 25 min.
Conditions: Grassy trails at the Roanoke marshes to gravelly roads around the harbor. Use service stations for a restroom.

Trips 14 & 31 – Alligator River NWR (Buffalo City Road to Milltail Road)
Alligator River NWR holds miles of huge impoundments with THOUSANDS of ducks, and often shorebirds. The trail at the end of Buffalo Road affords opportunity for land birds easily missed with so many flooded impoundments demanding viewer attention. The Buffalo Soldiers during the civil war resided here, the source of the namesake. Not a part of the tour is an option to stay in the refuge at dusk after the tour at the intersection of Sawyer Lake Road and Milltail Road, the place to be for Short-eared Owl, Red Wolf and Black Bear.
Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes
Conditions: Gravel roads. Restrooms are limited. There is a waterless toilet at the entrance to ARNWR (Rt. 64 at Milltail Rd.)

Trip 15 – Rodanthe Big Yard Birding

Join hostess Karen Lebing for a tour of her property on Pamlico Sound in Rodanthe. Gerry and Karen have observed 253 species to-date (most recent being Long-billed Curlew) on their two acres of heaven. From shrubby edge habitat to brackish marsh and open water, the birding potential on an afternoon is this spot is very good. Their feeder array (that includes sugar water for hummers) alone is a big draw in this very special Outer Banks backyard. Do not forget your camera if you decide to sign up for this unique experience!

Approximate travel time: 30 minutes

Conditions: Easy walking on mostly flat terrain. There is a long boardwalk out into the marsh. Restrooms are on site as well as at neighborhood convenience store.

Trip 16 – Jockey's Ridge State Park

Join a NC State Park Ranger to learn about this jewel of a park located adjacent to the famous Wright Brothers Memorial. Walk the trails in search of local flora and fauna associated with a variety of coastal habitat. Also, participants will be exposed to some of the rich human history associated with this part of the Outer Banks.

Approximate travel time: 10 minutes

Conditions: Moderate. Most of the trip will be hiking on well-defined trails, but the group will also encounter loose sand and some hilly terrain. Restrooms can be found on site at the park.

Trip 23 – Duck Town Boardwalk and Kitty Hawk Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip),

The almost half-mile boardwalk at Duck is a viewing platform for both wintering landbirds and waterbirds. It is located along a brushy shoreline and Currituck Sound. As time permits other Currituck Sound view locations may be included. The trip also includes the great opportunity granted to CBC for ocean viewing at the Hilton Garden Inn Pier ($3 fee). Scopes are the best tool for this last stop. If the pier is closed due to an event at the hotel the nearby Regional Beach Access will be our site for ocean viewing.

Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes to Duck

Conditions: Boardwalks. Restrooms will be at both sites.

Trip 26 – Northern Roanoke Island - Fort Raleigh Area

The northern area of Roanoke Island has several birding sites visited by the locals. Habitats range from manicured turf to woodlands and Albemarle Sound viewing. If Elizabethan Gardens is used by the leader, a fee is required ($8). The trip may go as far south as the Roanoke Island Marshes.

Approximate Travel Time: 25 min.

Conditions: Maintained trails vary. Restrooms will be available, either onsite or at a nearby service station.

Trip 28 – Split Pea Sojourn

We will walk the saltmarsh at the site of an old inlet on Hatteras Island, looking for bitterns, rails, Marsh and Sedge Wren, and the "maritime sparrows" - Saltmarsh, Nelson's, and Seaside. Shorebirds and waders may be found as well. *Note: In case of high wind, we will instead visit nearby hotspots, as wind makes viewing the marsh birds difficult.

Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes

Conditions: This is a strenuous trip that requires some wading in up to six inches of water, so bring appropriate footwear. Closest restrooms are located at the Pea Island NWR Visitor's Center, approximately two miles to the north.

Trip 30 – Futch Game Lands & River Road (ARNWR)
There are hundreds of acres of impoundments at the Futch Game Lands. Ducks move about the artificially flooded cells of ag lands. Shorebirds and marsh sparrows round out the impoundment birds and brushy woodland edges offer a variety of passerines. River Road can be a bonanza when rains flood the field.
Approximate Travel Time: 45 minutes to the Game Lands
Conditions: Gravelly roads and grassy paths along dikes. Plan on no facilities (restrooms, food, etc.) available.

Trip 32 – Pea Island NWR Visitor's Center and Bodie Light Boardwalk Escapade (HC Accessible)
The PI Visitors Center viewing windows and area within the parking lot offer excellent birding on North Pond, especially for ducks, with chances for Brown and White Pelicans a distinct possibility. We will then travel to the boardwalk at Bodie Island Lighthouse where we will scope for waterfowl, shorebirds, and waders from the lower portion of the observation platform. The boardwalk to the platform cuts through marsh that is excellent for rails and marsh wrens. The platform is the last stop as evening light can be spectacular on the waterfowl.
Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes to PINWR
Conditions: A restroom is available at both sites.

Trip 35 – Photo Workshop. This is an opportunity to glean tips that will help you hone your skills in the field. It is an afternoon trip so should afford excellent light conditions. Bird with your lens and binoculars.
Approximate travel time: TBD
Conditions: Sites will be selected by the leader.

Trip 41– Alligator River NWR for uncommon/rarities seen
Details TBA at Saturday evening program.

Trip 42– Pea Island area for uncommon/rarities seen
Details TBA at Saturday evening program.

FULL DAY FIELD TRIPS

Trips 17 & 37 – Lake Pungo and Phelps. (Pocosin Lakes NWR). Pocosin Lakes is famous for huge flocks of wintering Snow Geese lifting off at sunrise, a spectacle in itself. We will look through flocks of blackbirds with hopes of spotting a Yellow-headed Blackbird. Overhead, we'll keep an eye out for Golden Eagles, as this is one of the most reliable spots in the state for these awesome birds. Other possibilities include waterfowl species, and farm-field and edge species such as sparrows, pipits and Horned Larks. There is a lot of territory to cover on this trip with potential side trips on the way back in the Mattamuskeet NWR area.
Approximate Travel Time: 1.5 hours
Conditions: Roads, boardwalks and dirt paths. Restroom sites will not be available.

Trips 18 & 38 – Mattamuskeet NWR.
A birder's paradise, Mattamuskeet can be incredible. We will bird the Lake Landing area for waterfowl, shorebirds and waders, sorting through the more common species and hoping for something rare. We will also bird along the causeway, famous for its overwintering passerines, and at other sections of the refuge where passerine habitat abounds. The entrance road follows the main viewing impoundment.
Approximate Travel Time: 1 hour 30 minutes

Conditions: Restroom at the Swan Quarter parking area, Lake Landing and in the Refuge Visitors Center in the center of the main part of the refuge.

Trip 19 – Fort Raleigh to Wanchese

This is the all-day trip to discover the many hotspots on the north end of Roanoke Island and have adequate time to search the Roanoke Marshes and the marshes at Wanchese.
Approximate Travel Time: 25 min.
Conditions: Maintained trails vary. Restrooms will be available, either onsite or at a nearby service station.

Trips 20 & 40 – Pea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)

As part of an all-day trip, you will have more valuable time to scan the area habitats and increase those chances for life birds, or to study the posture and feeding habits that are guides to shorebird ID. The trip also goes south of the Visitors Center to the Newfield Platform (NOT the dike) and the Oceanview Trail for pelagic species hopefully near shore, and may possibly travel further south to the marsh area at Split Pea Bridge. A stop at Oregon Inlet will be considered dependent upon time. DO **NOT** WALK THE DIKE BEYOND THE NEWFIELD PLATFORM.
Approximate Travel Time: 35 minutes
Conditions: Sandy road shoulders and path to the ocean, grassy trails. Restrooms will be available at Oregon Inlet and the PINWR Visitor's Center.

Trip 39 – Hatteras Point & Hatteras Island,

A full day that just has – well – promise. We will bird the Point Campground, the Salt Pond and the beach, sorting through the gull flocks in search of Thayer's, Iceland, Glaucous and California Gulls. Lesser Black-backed Gulls should be common. We will scan the ocean for alcids or other rarities. The salt pond usually hosts good populations of birds. Snow Buntings, Horned Larks and a Sprague's Pipit may be present. Your leader may plan a stop at a local woodland area or some side trips on the way back depending on what has been seen that morning at points north. **Please note:** Depending on the weather conditions, we may be walking the sandy beach to Hatteras Point, about two miles round trip.
Approximate Travel Time: 90 minutes
Conditions: Moderate to strenuous. We will be exposed to the elements on the beach so dress accordingly. Restrooms will be available at the lighthouse Visitor's Center and neighborhood convenience stores.

Opportunities for Young Birders

Carolina Bird Club offers scholarships for birders 19 and under living in the Carolinas, who are members of the Carolina Young Birders Club.

Scholarships provide assistance in attending bird-related events, such as camps, workshop, training programs or CBC seasonal meetings.

For more information, visit www.carolinabirdclub.org

Friday, January 19 *Morning Half Day*
Trip 1– 7:00am Palmetto Peartree Preserve and Futch Game Lands
Trip 2– 7:00am Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk
Trip 3– 7:00am Alligator River NWR (Rt. 264 Corridor to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 4 – 7:15am Corolla Escapade (A Handicap Accessible Trip)
Trip 5 – 7:15am Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike
Trip 6 – 7:30am Jennette's Pier Ocean Watch
Trip 7 – 8:00am Waterfowl ID Workshop
Trip 8- 8:30am Oregon Inlet & Bodie Island

Friday, January 19 *Afternoon Half Day*
Trip 9– 1:00pm Nags Head Woods Preserve & Jennette's Pier Escapade (HC Accessible Trip)
Trip 10- 1:00pm Kitty Hawk Woods Coastal Reserve area & Kitty Hawk Pier
Trip 11–1:15pm Pea Island NWR North Pond & Visitors Center
Trip 12– 1:15pm Oregon Inlet & Bodie Light
Trip 13– 1:15pm Roanoke Island Marshes & Wanchese Harbor and Marshes
Trip 14– 1:00pm Alligator River NWR (Buffalo City Rd. to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 15- 1:30pm Rodanthe Big Yard Birding
Trip 16– 1:30pm Jockey's Ridge State Park

Friday, January 19 *All Day*
Trip 17– 5:15am Pocosin Lakes (Pungo and Phelps) NWR
Trip18 - 6:15am Mattamuskeet NWR
Trip19 – 6:30am Roanoke Island – Ft. Raleigh to Wanchese
Trip 20 – 6:45amPea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)

Saturday, January 20 *Morning Half Day*
Trip 21– 6:45am Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk
Trip 22- 6:45am Alligator River NWR (Rt. 264 to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 23–7:00am Duck Town Boardwalk & Kitty Hawk Pier Escapade (HC Accessible)
Trip 24– 7:15am Pea Island NWR Visitors Center and Southside Dike
Trip 25–7:15am Oregon Inlet & Bodie Island
Trip 26– 7:30am Northern Roanoke Island – Ft. Raleigh Area
Trip 27– 7:30am Jennette's Pier Ocean Watch
Trip 28-7:30am Split Pea Sojourn

Saturday, January 20 Afternoon *Half Day*
Trip 29– 1:00pm Audubon Pine Island Sanctuary & Duck Boardwalk
Trip 30– 1:00pm Futch Game Lands & River Rd. in Alligator River NWR
Trip 31– 1:00pm Alligator River NWR (Buffalo City Rd. to Milltail Rd.)
Trip 32– 1:15pm Pea Island NWR Visitors Center & Bodie Light Boardwalk Escapade (HC Accessible)
Trip 33- 1:15pm Oregon Inlet & Bodie Island
Trip 34– 1:30pm Pea Island NWR North Pond & Visitors Center
Trip 35– 1:30pm Photography Workshop
Trip 36 – 1:30pm Jennette's Pier Ocean Watch

Saturday, January 20 *All Day*
Trip 37- 5:15am Pocosin Lakes (Pungo and Phelps) NWR
Trip 38- 6:15am Mattamuskeet NWR
Trip 39– 6:15am Hatteras Point & Hatteras Island
Trip 40– 6:45am Pea Island NWR (North Pond to Split Pea Bridge)

Sunday, January 21
Trip 41– 7:30am Alligator River NWR Search for uncommon/rarities seen
Trip 42– 7:30am Pea Island NWR Search for uncommon/rarities seen

CBC Winter 2024 OBX, NC Registration Form

Registration Begins Saturday, December 9th @ 2pm.

Register online for Best Availability of Field Trips at

www.carolinabirdclub.org.

Name _____

Address_____

City_____ **State**_____ **Zip Code** _____

Meeting Registration (Member) ____x $35 = $____

Meeting Registration (Non-Member) ____x $40 = $____

Buffet Dinner (A **Vegetarian dish is on the buffet line)**
_____ x $40 = $____

Total Enclosed = $_____

Meeting registration at the door costs $45.

Field Trip Sign-Up	A.M. 1st/2nd Choice	P.M. 1st/2nd Choice	All Day 1st/2nd Choice
Friday	/	/	/
Saturday	/	/	/

To pre-register for Field Trips, place the trip number(s) in the boxes to the right of the days.

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club and send to:

CBC, 9 Quincy Place, Pinehurst, NC 28374

Club policy requires all field trip participants to comply with the field trip leader's assessment and requests concerning the physical ability of each participant to make or complete the trip.

I will release and discharge (and will not make a claim against) the Carolina Bird Club for injury, death, or property damage arising from my participation at this meeting and/or Club field trips. This release of liability is entered into on behalf of all members of my family, including all minors accompanying me. I certify that I am the parent or legal guardian of any such minors and that I am over 18 years of age.

Signature_____ Date_____ Signature_____ Date_____

Processing of mail-in registrations will not begin until online registration opens.

Special hotel pricing ends December 18, 2023, at Midnight (This may be extended if sufficient rooms have been reserved, but is not guaranteed.)

Cancellations will be refunded if received by noon on January 7th.

Cancel by contacting the Headquarters Secretary at hq@carolinabirdclub.org.

Welcome Bob Lewis - North Carolina Member-at-large

I started birding in 1973 while a graduate student in mathematics at Cornell. I knew nothing of birdwatching. A friend talked me into visiting the famous Cornell Lab of Ornithology where they had popular lectures every week. Someone there casually mentioned how they had seen a few Kestrels recently. I looked at a painting in a field guide (first time I had ever even heard of a field guide) and thought "What?? That's ridiculous! There's nothing like that within a thousand miles of here." So of course, the next day while driving I saw one perched on a telephone wire. I was so astonished it's lucky I didn't crash the car. I was hooked.

A few years later I was a shiny new assistant professor at Lander College in Greenwood SC. I got heavily into birding and met Harry LeGrand, who was about fifty miles away at Clemson, and a few other birders.

From 1978-1980 I was in Chapel Hill picking up another graduate degree. Again, I birded heavily in the area and made lots of friends, such as John Fussell, Mike Tove, and Allen Bryan. The last year I was there Jordan Lake was being clear cut and dammed, and we found a lot of great birds, including a couple Black Rails.

In 1980 I got a great offer from a good university in New York City. I couldn't refuse, but hated to leave the Carolinas. I swore to return often. For the next 17 years I did three or more Christmas Counts on the Outer Banks every year and visited often during the summer and fall. For various reasons I skipped the years 1997 - 2007, but returned with a vengeance for the next ten years, helped by the fact that I had family in Durham by then.

As the Twenty-teens wore on and retirement loomed, it seemed like more and more a good idea to take advantage of the family situation in Durham. My wife and I finally moved here in 2021. It's been great reconnecting with people and places, and seeing lots of new things. The place sure has grown!

I hope to see you in the field, probably near Durham, on the OBX, or at Alligator Refuge.

Bob Lewis

Welcome Jennifer Roberts - South Carolina Member-at-large

Hi y'all! I've lived in South Carolina for almost three decades but I grew up wandering fields and forests in the Midwest (oh, the birds I probably saw but didn't appreciate back then). I didn't realize birding was a 'thing' until 2012 while on vacation in Costa Rica, but I was instantly hooked. Since then, I've taken a few birding trips, attended a festival or two, collected too many field guides and made quite a few new birder friends. I'm excited to give back to the club that showed a new birder how much fun it is to bird in groups!

Jennifer Roberts

25th Anniversary Wings Over Water a Whopping Success!

By Susan Campbell

Anyone who did not attend our milestone festival in October missed quite an event! The birds and other wildlife did not disappoint. Fortunately, the weather also cooperated, (mostly—it was the Outer Banks!) and we were also treated to our renowned keynote speaker, Julie Zickefoose, on site for the entire week.

Between October 17th and 22nd, some sixty-one trips succeeded in finding 182 species of birds. As always, the festival area included locations from Mackay Island to the north down to Ocracoke in the south and the beaches inland to Lake Mattamuskeet National Wildlife Refuge. Avian highlights included the persisting flock of American Flamingos at Pea Island to the Tropical Kingbird found at Mackay Island to a late White-rumped Sandpiper and Black-necked Stilt as well as the now-expected eastern rarities such as Eurasian Wigeon and American White Pelicans.

But there was more! Persisting warm water temperatures meant that Cannonball Jellyfish were still present around Dare County piers. That meant that opportunities to see foraging sea turtles, especially rare Leatherbacks, were possible. Lots of participants had good views of turtles from the end of Jennette's Peir throughout the week. Warmer than expected air temperatures had snakes still on the move. Numerous Canebrake Rattlesnakes were observed crossing Milltail Road in Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge. And that was not all! Juvenile Red Wolves were found hunting large insects and small game on the edges of the fields at Alligator River along Longcurve Road—oblivious to the awe and amazement of countless observers. Also, huge Black Bears were quietly feeding in the freshly cut cornfields there as well.

Attendees of the Keynote event enjoyed not only wonderful appetizers provided by Basnight's Lone Cedar Restaurant but were treated to Julie's tales of bird study in her own backyard. She shared experiences, photos and videos from years of observing and illustrating the lives of nestlings on her property in rural Ohio. It was not only an entertaining and educational presentation but also a heartfelt look into the development of familiar species when most of us are not watching. We were all riveted until the very end. Julie really enjoyed her stay with us for the week. She was able to make new acquaintances as well as visit with old friends. Like so many, she took loads of photos of the wildlife spectacle and, being a plant-lover as well, the abundance of fall wildflowers.

Of course, Wings Over Water 2023 is not quite over. We have the Encore weekend coming up in December (9 & 10). As was the case last month, most of our trips are full. We are looking forward once again to searching an array of habitat from maritime forests to fields, impoundments as well as the ocean for wildlife. By then, marine mammals such as Atlantic Bottlenose Dolphins and Humpback Whales may be spotted amongst the sea ducks, gulls and terns along the coastline. The refuges should be full of waterfowl, waders and an array of raptors in addition to wintering songbirds.

So, stay tuned!

Welcome New CBC Members!

New Life Members

Ian & Janelle McDonald, Hickory, NC
Fred Stein, Charlotte, NC
Mary Harward, Costa Mesa, CA
Marcelle Ross, North Myrtle Beach, SC

Sandy & Dave Townsend
Valrico, FL

Barbara Pigott
Gloucester, NC

Gayle & Mike Krusinski
Asheboro, NC

Deborah & William Woody
Raleigh, NC

Robert Spearman
Mary Edmonds
Pittsboro, NC

Jay & Sharon Molvie
Raleigh, NC

Ron Martin
Apex, NC

Kate McCormack
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Phillip & Cristela Moreno
Sylva, NC

Cindy Damon
Chapin, SC

Andrea Nortier
Sharon, SC

Mary Kevin Welch
Beaufort, NC

Arbor Nickley
Durham, NC

Helen Joyner
Cary, NC

Katherine Dalton
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Rosemary Alston
Windsor, NC

Sandy & Elizabeth
Drolshagen
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Barbara Szombatfalvy
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Jack & Susan Sponsler
Myrtle Beach, SC

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Irmo, SC

Leonard Mull
Clover, SC

Zach Ambrose
Raleigh, NC

Claire McCullough
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Chapel Hill, NC

Chris, Aiden, Emma
and Theresa Savilis
Durham, NC

Myra Murphy
Cary, NC

Lacy Kegley
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Katherine Monismith
Mooresville, NC

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Raleigh, NC 27612

Periodicals Postage Paid
at Pinehurst, NC 28374
and additional mailing offices

Upcoming CBC Meetings

Winter Meeting at Nags Head, NC – January 19-21, 2024

Spring Meeting at Charleston, SC – April 25-28, 2024

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Deadlines for submission of Volume 70, Issue 1 is
January 15, 2024

www.carolinabirdclub.org

The *CBC Newsletter* is published bimonthly by Carolina Bird Club, Inc. Founded in 1937, the membership is open to anyone interested in birds, natural history, and conservation. Current dues are: Individual & non-profit, $30; Family and Business, $35; Student, $15; Patron, $50 and up; Life, $500; Associate Life (in household with Life Member), $100 (both Life memberships can be paid in four annual installments). Membership dues include access to publications: the *CBC Newsletter* and *The Chat, which is only available on line.* Tax deductible as allowable by law.

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